Military takeover possible, says senior AFP official

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2001 ★★ 98 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 141 ₱15

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BY AMANDO DORONILA, CARLITO PABLO AND ARMAND NOCUM

THE ARMED FORCES has not ruled out the option of a military takeover to preempt a power grab by an alleged cabal loyal to jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, a senior military official told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"If there will be defections," said the official who asked not to be named, "it will be bloody."

Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan yesterday confirmed moves by key opposition leaders to recruit the support of officers in an apparent bid to overthrow the

MILITARY/ A20

Defense of Palace starts

Erap to Gloria: Step down or my supporters will march

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THE DEFENSE of Malacañang began last night as People Power II supporters started massing on Don Chino Roces Bridge to preserve the gains of the January uprising, after jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada called on his supporters to march on the Palace on May 2.

Shortly past midnight, Jaime Cardinal Sin wento on radio to urge his Catholic flock to go to Mendiola to defend the duly constituted government.

'It is immoral to grab power,' he said, adding the the Supreme Court had twice reaffirmed the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency.

Four days in detention on charges of economic plunder, Estrada for the first time openly gave marching orders to his supporters, calling for nationwide protests as tens of thousands gathered at the Edsa Shrine demanding his return to power.

Estrada also gave his lieutenants three days to negotiate with President Macapagal-Arroyo, at the end of which his supporters would march and "lay siege" on Malacañang to demand Ms Macapagal's ouster, a source from the Estrada camp said.

Ms Macapagal would be offered "two options," the source said.

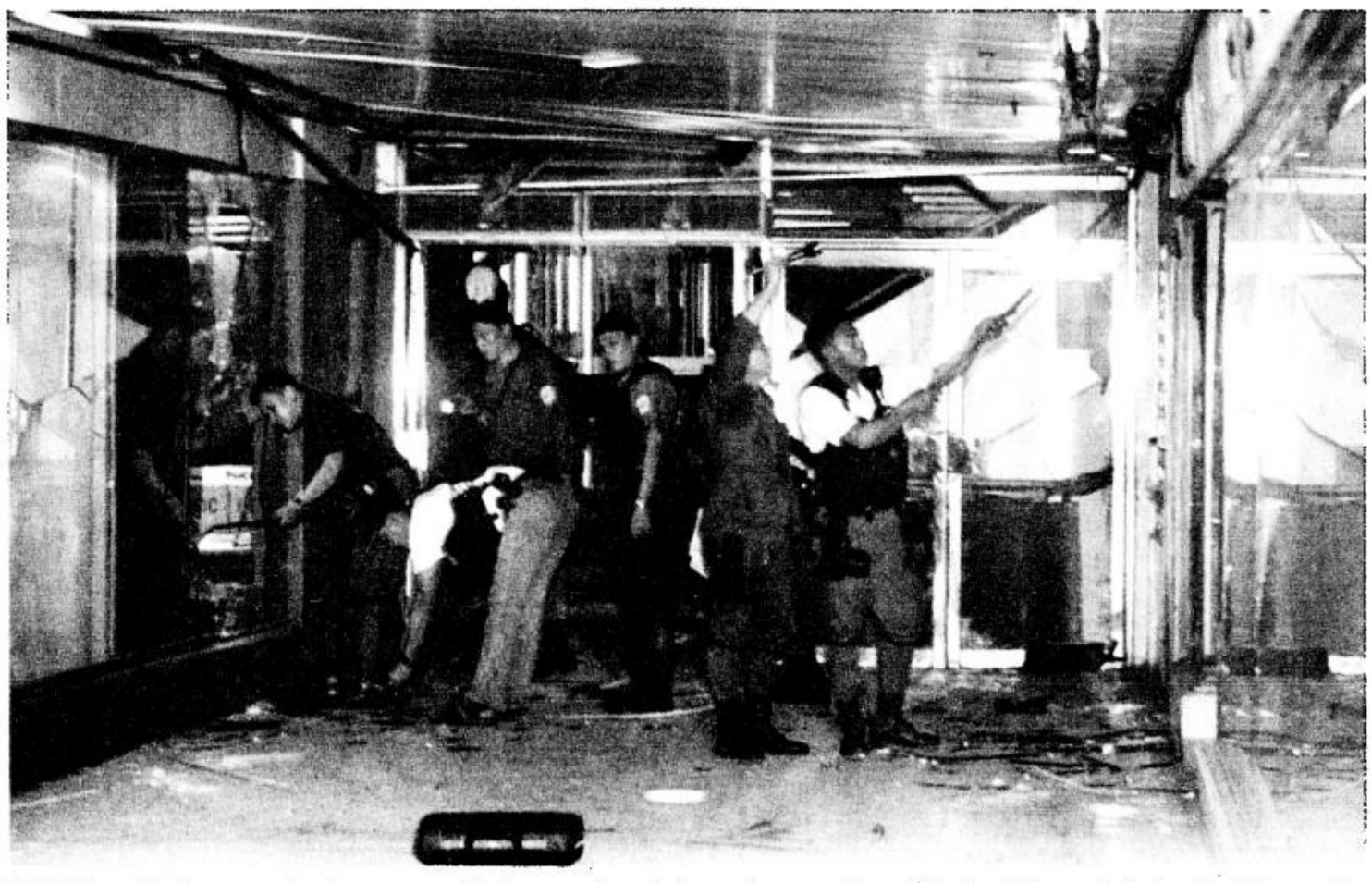
First, she steps down and reassumes the vice presidency so Estrada's aborted impeachment trial can be reopened.

Second, both Ms Macapagal and Estrada "resign the presidency" to pave the way for a snap election.

If nothing comes out of the negotiations, the growing crowd at the Edsa Shrine will head for the Chino Roces Bridge (formerly Mendiola) to march on Malacañang, according to the source.

The march on the Palace is

DEFENSE/ A19



POLICE investigators assess the damage caused by the grenade explosion on the second floor of the Ever Gotesco Central mall in Caloocan City. They said robbers could be behind the blast. DENNIS SABANGAN

Grenade blasts rock mall; 35 hurt

BY DAVE M. VERIDIANO

TWO grenades hurled by suspected robbers exploded at the Ever Gotesco Central mall in Caloocan City yesterday afternoon, injuring 35 persons, mostly shoppers, reports reaching Camp Crame said.

Police authorities immediately discounted the possibility that the incident was connected to rumors of coup plots circulating in the country.

Among the victims was a security guard who suffered serious injuries and was fighting for his life at the nearby MCU Hospital.

Five of the injured were children who were trampled upon by screaming shoppers as they raced out of the mall, Reuters quoted witnesses as saying.

Police investigation showed that the grenades could have been hurled by robbers who had struck at a jewelry store inside the mall at about 5:30 p.m.

The fleeing robbers lobbed the grenades, one in front of the jewelry store and the other in front of a Jollibee hamburger stall, to stop pursuing security guards.

The guards told investigators that one of the robbers smashed with a hammer the window of the jewelry store, grabbed the items on display and fled toward the main door on the first floor.

According to Reuters, the thieves threw the first grenade near the hamburger shop to divert the attention of guards while other gang members were robbing the jewelry shop on an upper floor.

"I saw the children being trampled upon in the stampede. It was pitiful," mobile phone

GRENADE/ A6

Country sitting on edge of civil war

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

WE are a nation sitting on the edge of civil war. The demonstrations sparked by the arrest of deposed President Joseph Estrada on April 25 have forced the Macapagal-Arroyo administration into a potentially explosive standoff, which invites violence in the streets and military intervention to seize power.

The pro-Estrada forces have sustained their demonstrations for five days already, and there's no sign of an early resolution. The resolution of Edsa II came within five days of the triggering event—the vote in the impeachment court to block the opening of the second envelope containing alleged evidence of money laundering by Estrada.

The turning point at Edsa II came when the armed forces, the national police and most of the Cabinet members withdrew support from Estrada. It facilitated the bloodless transfer of power.

This time, we are nearer civil war than we were in the 1986 "People Power" revolution or in Edsa II. Although the number of people at Edsa dwindled from a peak of more than 270,000 in the evening of April 26 to about 100,000 on Saturday evening, Estrada supporters are being transported from as far away as Mindanao and Palawan to reinforce the hard core of protesters at the Edsa Shrine.

The present crowd is rowdy, undisciplined and ready to be incited to violence by inflammatory state-

COUNTRY/ A20

Anti-Estrada rallies planned on Labor Day

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

HUGE rallies are expected all over the country tomorrow, Labor Day, after groups from the Left and Right sounded calls for mass actions to highlight the plight of the workers, the poor and other oppressed sectors.

And if the rallies have one unifying theme, it is that they are all against the release and return to power of former President Joseph Estrada.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo invited "those of you who still believe in justice and good governance, please go to the Luneta on May 1."

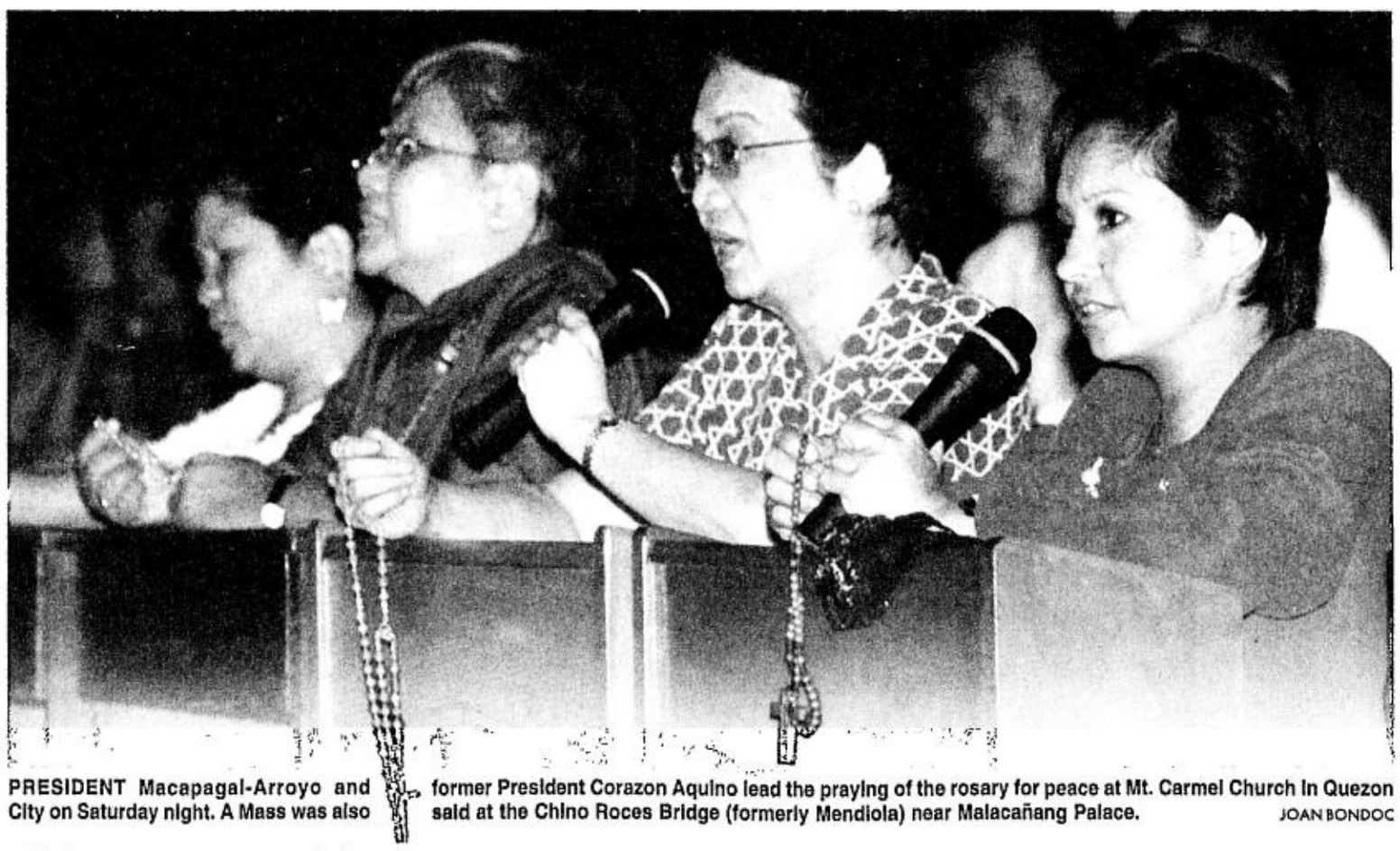
On his weekly radio program "Kaibigan" over radio station dzRH yesterday, Arroyo said, "We'll see each other at 4 p.m. at the Quirino Grandstand," adding jokingly that unlike the pro-Estrada rally at Edsa, "we will not be busing people in."

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said the government was officially supporting Labor Day celebrations nationwide.

"It will be a joint government and private sector undertaking, like in the past," he said.

Two militant labor organizations pledged to pour 800,000 workers into the streets all over the country tomorrow to press their demands and "show what People Power really means."

ANTI-ESTRADA/ A4



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino lead the praying of the rosary for peace at Mt. Carmel Church in Quezon City on Saturday night. A Mass was also said at the Chino Roces Bridge (formerly Mendiola) near Malacañang Palace. JOAN BONDOC

Gloria, Cory summon 'prayer power'

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, JEROME ANING AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino are summoning the power of prayer to counter the pro-Estrada rally at the Edsa Shrine.

At the Mt. Carmel Church in Quezon City, Ms Macapagal and Aquino on Saturday led a prayer vigil, the start of a series of religious activities initiated by the Archdiocese of Manila.

"Some of us may have forgotten that an important component of people power is prayer power," Aquino told the crowd. "I hope that in the days to come, we shall now concentrate on prayer power."

Ms Macapagal, who was reportedly alarmed by the massive pro-Estrada rally, expressed optimism that the conflict would end soon.

Before she led the praying of the rosary at Mt. Carmel, she told the crowd: "Thank you for praying tonight. Thank you for not forgetting that praying was what made people power successful."

GLORIA/ A4

AFP forms anti-coup task force

BY CARLITO PABLO

A 2,000-STRONG military force backed by helicopter gunships, Scorpion tanks and armored combat vehicles stands ready to counter any attempt by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada to mount a coup.

And to show that it means business, the task force has parked two MG-520 attack helicopters armed to the teeth with rockets on the parade ground at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Not even at the height of the People Power II uprising that toppled Estrada in January did the Armed Forces of the Philippines deploy the MG-520s, the most lethal helicopter in its arsenal.

Also parked nearby are two armored personnel carriers while troops in camouflage uniforms are prepared for action at the camp's grandstand.

Called Task Force Libra, the force is led by Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, chief of the AFP's Special Operations Command, mother unit of the military's Special Forces and Scout Rangers.

Santiago, who is based at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, set up his command post at Aguinaldo three days ago upon the creation of Task Force Libra.

AFP/ A19

Second FRONT PAGE

High prices top voters' concern

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA

THE MAJORITY of Filipino voters want their senators to do something about high prices, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey.

And when they cast their vote on May 14, more than half of voters will list the names of senatorial candidates who are "intelligent and knowledgeable" and avoid those who are "linked to graft and corruption and other anomalies in government."

These were some of the findings of the survey, conducted from April 16 to 30 and commissioned by the GMA television network, which found that the senatorial race would likely end with an 8-5 win for the administration-backed People Power Coalition.

A total of 1,800 registered voters across the country was polled on their senatorial preferences and other test issues.

Pulse Asia president Felipe Miranda and incorporator Ana Maria Tabunda presented the findings on Friday at the GMA Network Center.

The answers showed the voters' high expectations of the candidates, even demanding programs, which are not within the scope of a legislator's job.

The issue of high prices was high on the list of 42 percent of the respondents.

A sizeable 38 percent want their candidates to support programs to develop agriculture, assist farmers and prioritize "food adequacy at low prices" when they get to the Senate.

An equally large number, 35 percent, said the candidates should emphasize campaigns against illegal drugs and rehabilitation for addicts.

The defense of women's rights was the concern of 34 percent of the respondents, while 33 percent wanted their senators to protect the country's finances and fight graft and corruption.

The construction of more public school buildings and improving the quality of teaching rated high with 26 percent while another 25 percent would want lawmakers to "provide low-cost housing for the homeless poor."

A total of 23 percent want their candidates to campaign against widespread criminality, protect public safety and promote peace and order.

Only 19 percent favored protecting the environment, 13 percent building foster homes for vagrant street children and 10 percent exerting more effort into encouraging foreign and local capitalists.

When the respondents were asked for the "most important characteristics for a senatorial candidate to possess," 60 percent went for "intelligent and knowledgeable."

Forty-nine percent said the candidate who fights "anomalies" in government deserves election while 38 believe the "pro-poor" candidates should be chosen.

Thirty-six percent curiously went for the quality "relates well to others" while 28 percent favored those who are "strong-willed and courageous."

Candidates with "integrity and good reputation" are the choice of another 28 percent while 27 percent want those with "good work ethics."

A more practically minded 11 percent want their choices to "produce concrete results" in the Senate. A "good speaker/articulate" candidate is favored by 10 percent.

Any candidate with the following characteristics had better watch it.

- Those who are linked to graft and corruption beware, 64 percent of the voters aren't going to waste their ink on you.
- The "insincere" would be avoided by 42 percent and 38 percent would ditch those who have "no sympathy for the many poor Filipinos."
- The "arrogant and overconfident" should worry for the 36 percent of voters and those who lack "political know-how" won't get votes from 28 percent.
- Any candidate who hasn't done "anything concrete for the country and the people" can subtract 24 percent from his or her expectations.
- The "quarrelsome and vindictive" will be snubbed by 22 percent and the "trapos" or traditional politicians will be junked by 20 percent.
- Insensitive to others? Count 13 percent out.

In both categories of characteristics to possess and avoid, respondents were asked if being a "supporter or promoter of former President Estrada" would influence their choices.

The partisans were equally divided. Ten percent listed this criterion in those they will choose and another 10 percent said they would avoid candidates with this characteristic.

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Velarde hints at El Shaddai support for Edsa rally

By D. Pazzibugan

EL SHADDAI leader Mike Velarde gave his tacit support to the Edsa Shrine rally, which is seeking to restore his friend, ousted President Joseph Estrada, in Malacañang.

The Iglesia ni Cristo, an indigenous Christian sect which is known to vote as a bloc, has not officially announced that it was supporting the pro-Estrada rally.

INC spokesperson Bienvenido Santiago yesterday said there was no official order or circular for INC members to go to Edsa. He added, however, that the INC hierarchy was not prohibiting them, even its ministers, from participating in the rally.

"That is part of the freedom of expression of our members as Filipinos," he said.

An INC member said he saw a sign posted on an Iglesia church telling members to go to Edsa.

At the gathering of the Catholic charismatic group at the Luneta Park on Saturday night, Velarde broadly hinted of his endorsement of the call to reinstate the disgraced President, a move that the Catholic hierarchy has decried as "immoral."

"*Alam n'yo na kung saan kayo pupunta pagkatapos nito* (You already know where to go after this)," the self-style preacher told his followers, who cheered enthusiastically in return.

Velarde, a spiritual adviser of Estrada when he was President, quoted a verse from the Bible on how Jesus Christ preached about doing charity to the poor, the sick and the prisoners. He devoted the rest of his speech on according respect to the opinions of the poor.

Velarde had earlier denied that he had asked El Shaddai members to join the pro-Estrada rally at the Edsa Shrine, although he neither discouraged them.

Apart from the quote, Velarde did not come close to making a more categorical statement about the pro-Estrada rally.

While he urged his followers to respect the opinion and sentiments of the poor, Velarde criticized those who issued disparaging remarks against others, particularly against certain officials of the land.

He was apparently referring to some pro-Estrada politicians like reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who used cuss words against President Macapagal-Arroyo during the rally.

"I ask those who speak on television, I ask the media, no matter which side you are on, I do not agree with your belittling of people whether they are rich or poor. We do not have the right to belittle any person . . . especially those in official positions," he said in Filipino.

He warned against underestimating a small creature, such as an ant, narrating a story about the bad experience of someone, who trod upon an anthill.

"*Kaya huwag n'yo aapakan ang maliliit na yan. Huwag ninyong hahamakin . . . totodasin kayo niyan. Magugulat kayo* (So you should not step on the small creatures. Do not sneer at them . . . for they can destroy you. You will be surprised)," he said.

He was alluding to the rich, whom Estrada had accused of plotting his ouster.

"*Bato-bato sa langit, ang tamaan huwag magalit* ... I mean nothing," Velarde hastily added.

"But let us open our eyes to the truth... We cannot divide the rich and the poor. We cannot pit them against each other. We have to unite to help our country. We should not fight each other," Velarde said. *With a report from Donna S. Cueto*

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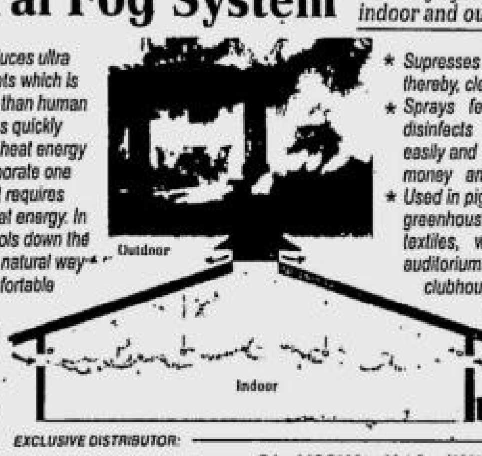

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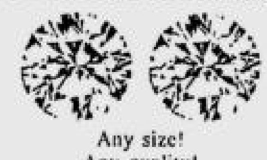

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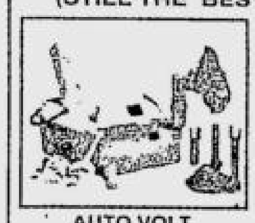

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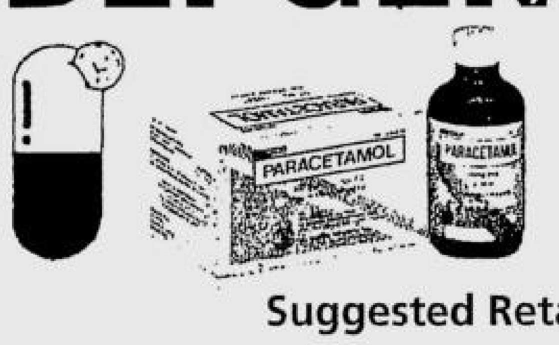

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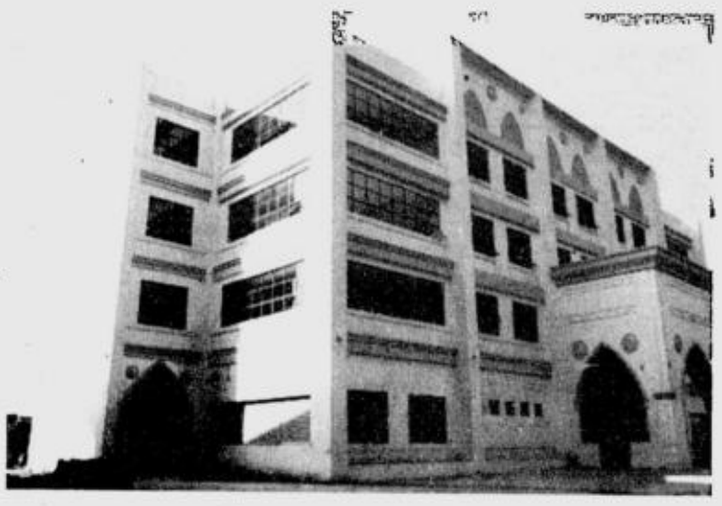

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Gloria, Cory . . .

(From page A1)

"Because we're praying all tonight, I am not afraid," she said in reference to the biblical passage about Jesus Christ telling his apostles not to be afraid.

Several kilometers away, at the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang in Manila, some 500 people from various anti-Estrada groups also heard Mass Saturday night.

Seek forgiveness

During the Mass led by activist priests Robert Reyes and Raul Enriquez, the crowd lit candles and said a prayer issued by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to seek forgiveness for the desecration of the Edsa Shrine.

The demonstrators came from the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II, a coalition that led moves to oust Estrada in January, and other groups.

"This is to prove that the spirit of People Power II did not die," Reyes said. "Edsa does not refer to the place, but the issue. In this activity, we will prove that it is still alive."

The Church will lead the praying of the rosary in all parishes in Metro Manila to seek reparation for the desecration of the shrine, said Msgr. Socrates Villegas, rector of the shrine.

There will be holy hours of penance when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, according to Villegas.

"People will ask for pardon for what they have done to the temple of God. There will be a spiritual offering because the damage is really spiritual," he said.

The Vatican has declared the shrine, site of People Powers I and II that ousted two corrupt presidents, hallowed ground.

Villegas said the Catholic hierarchy would exert all non-violent means and would appeal to the protesters to leave the shrine, a private property of the Catholic Church.

"We still believe in the goodness of their hearts," he said. "We still believe in their own decency, that they have a basic element of courtesy within them."

He said the so-called People Power III would soon end because it lacked moral and spiritual foundation.

Blue Sunday

Aquino said the prayer power, which began with yesterday's "Blue Sunday" Mass, would coincide with the "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" campaign of the Family Rosary Crusade.

The campaign will end on May 13, the day the Blessed Virgin first appeared in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

At the Don Chino Roces Bridge, Father Reyes urged the public to wear blue to express their support for the prosecution and arrest of Estrada.

He said the color symbolized peace that should have reigned in the country after People Power II.

"But tonight, we cannot really celebrate peace because we are here and they are there," he said in his homily.

Joel Rocamora, Akbayan president, said the rally was intended to show the government that "civil society supports the arrest of Estrada."

Organizers said the assembly was the beginning of a series of protests that would culminate on May 1. The protesters began to arrive at the bridge about 4 p.m.

Those who converged at the bridge included members of the Council of Philippine Affairs, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and its affiliated groups, Akbayan, and the People's Movement for Democratic Governance.

Among those who attended the Mass were First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, People Power Coalition spokesperson Dodi Limcauco, Cecille Guidote Alvarez, Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, Linggoy Alcuaz of the Silent Protest Movement and INQUIRER columnist Randy David.

"It is imperative that we again come together and make a united effort to frustrate a reversal of the gains of People Power II," Bayan chair Rafael Mariano said.

First Gentleman Arroyo said he joined the activity to thank the organizers who helped catapult his wife to power.

"I'm here to show oneness with them, to hear Mass and (celebrate) the victory of Edsa," he said.

He scoffed at the Edsa Shrine rally. "There's no moral cause there. They are bastardizing the spirit of Edsa. It's like the game politicians are playing. The politicians are just using the Estrada supporters," he said.

Don't condemn poor

But another activist priest urged the Catholic Church not to issue a blanket condemnation of the pro-Estrada protesters at the Edsa Shrine as they were expressing genuine grievances.

"I agree with the (Manila Archbishop Jaime) cardinal (Sin's) condemnation of the shrine's desecration but the Church should also look at the wider picture," Fr. Ben Moraleda said.

"It's beyond desecration and vandalism," said Moraleda, head of the justice and peace commission of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP).

Instead of condemning and belittling the pro-Estrada crowd, the Church should address the grievances of the poor and help convince them that traditional politicians are using them to pursue the politician's vested interests, according to Moraleda.

To consider the current protest at Edsa the opposite of People Power I and II would be "myopic," he said.

"Not all of them are vandals or desecrators. The big bulk are really poor who are expressing their grievances against society, the government and even the Church," he said. *With reports from Jeusa Raflores, Myla Torres and Carina Roncesvalles*

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Anti-Estrada . . .

(From page A1)

Crispin Beltran, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) chair, said his group would also present to President Macapagal-Arroyo a four-point agenda calling for, among other things, "completion of the goals of People Power II, mainly the prosecution and punishment of Estrada, as well as his cronies."

"This Labor Day, workers and other members of the poor and marginalized sectors will take to the streets and show the country what People Power really means," Beltran said.

The Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) said it would mobilize 100,000 workers and urban poor from the factories and communities of Metro Manila, Laguna and Cavite in a "giant" May 1 rally at the People Power Monument on Edsa.

The site is adjacent to the Edsa Shrine where supporters of Estrada have been protesting his incarceration on plunder charges.

From Oslo, Norway, where he is participating in peace talks with the government, communist leader Jose Ma. Sison welcomed the labor front's anti-Estrada theme in its Labor Day rallies this year.

In a statement, Sison expressed outrage over efforts being exerted by Estrada and his allies for him to escape prosecution and put himself back in power by paying poor people to attend a rally for him.

Party-list Rep. Renato Magtubo (Sanlakas) said "the working class and the impoverished masses should unite in an independent movement for social change, not for Estrada's return to the presidency or in defense of the Macapagal regime."

Beltran said there was an urgency to destroy claims by Estrada and his supporters that the Filipino masses were demanding his release and return to power, on the basis of the rallies at the Edsa Shrine.

"It was not only at Edsa that Filipinos demanded Estrada's ouster and punishment, but all over the country," Beltran said. "Only a very small section of the population is being misled by Estrada."

The KMU said it would mobilize 50,000 of its members and 20,000 sympathizers from groups like the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Bayan Muna for a rally at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

The group is seeking a P125 across-the-board wage increase, the scrapping of labor contracting and other forms of flexible labor hiring, and a halt to mass layoffs of workers.

The moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said the "best gift" Ms Macapagal could give workers would be to repeal Order No. 10 of the Department of Labor and Employment, which legalized labor-only contracting.

It said the scheme gave birth to millions of contractual workers who have no job security and nonwage benefits. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Cathy C. Yamsuan*

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RP maids in HK split on Erap fate

HONG KONG—Thousands of Filipino maids working in Hong Kong are sharply divided over the fate of disgraced leader Joseph Estrada. Some support his imprisonment, while others call for his release.

"I think it's better to put him in prison. I believe he's corrupt," Nida Saturno, 35, from the Cagayan Valley in the North, said Sunday while relaxing at a park with fellow Filipino maids.

Her friend, Marilou Dalay, 32, of Manila, said the jail term served as a warning for the next president not to "follow in the footsteps" of Estrada.

On their only day off each week, many of the 140,000 Filipinos who work as live-in maids here gather at Manila's Statue Square for singing and picnics. Most came to affluent Hong Kong to earn money for impoverished families back home.

Former action movie star Estrada was himself born in Tondo, Manila, and many of the maids still see him as a champion of the poor despite his arrest on corruption charges.

"It's all of the influential people around him that are corrupt," said Sheila Patricia, 29. "If I were Estrada, I would fight for my rights because people voted me to become the president."

Mar Fernandez, 45, a native of Laoag City also preferred Estrada to his successor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

"He's our legal president. Arroyo is illegal. I don't think he committed any crimes. The administration is making up those crimes," said Fernandez. *AP*

Gloria son bares death threat

THE SON of President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday he received a letter threatening to harm him and his family from supporters of ousted leader Joseph Estrada.

Mikey Arroyo, who is running as vice governor of Pampanga province, said live bullets were also posted inside the letter.

"You have been harassing our beloved president of the Philippines, but you do not have all the time at (sic) your hands," the President's eldest son quoted the letter as saying, adding it was signed by a group of Estrada supporters.

The opposition Puwersa ng Masa scoffed at the reports of a death threat against the young Arroyo, saying President Macapagal-Arroyo was "getting desperate" over the "million people" gathered at Edsa in support of the jailed Estrada.

Ms Macapagal was "(using) her son for selfish political ends," said a statement from Adel Antonino, the coalition spokesman.

The young Arroyo condemned the threat as "abhorrent" but said he would not be scared from continuing with his campaign.

"They can send me as many live bullets as possible. They can try to scare me to death. But I will not shirk from my duties, I will never ever abandon the principles and commitments instilled in me by my parents," he told a news conference.

Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said the President would "take the appropriate legal measures" and added that Malacañang was not taking the threat lightly.

"We will see to it that the safety of our children and followers is simply non-negotiable," Capco quoted the President as saying.

The reported threat came as the Armed Forces went on security alert amid rumors of a coup plot against the Macapagal-Arroyo government purportedly being hatched by Estrada supporters. *AFP*

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Grenade blasts rock mall; 35 hurt

(From page A1)

salesman Ronnie Nacion told Reuters.

The thieves belong to a group, called the "Martilyo Gang" because of their practice of using a hammer to break into shops, police said.

A series of bomb blasts hit Manila shopping malls last year. Police blamed those attacks on Moro guerrillas fighting for an Islamic state in Mindanao.

In an Agence France Presse report, Interior Secretary Jose Lina called on the public to remain calm, but declined to speculate whether the attack was politically motivated.

"We are assuring the public that the PNP (Philippine National Police) and the entire government are in control of the situation," Lina said. "Let us just take care a little bit and let us not panic over what happened." *With reports from the Inquirer wires*

Sharon, Helen keep ties above politics

BY LEAH SALTERIO

"I DON'T think politics will ever destroy our relationship."

With this, Helen Gamboa-Sotto dismissed talk that she and her favorite niece, "megastar" Sharon Cuneta, are now at odds with each other because of the opposing political beliefs and affiliations of their husbands.

The only sister of the megastar's mom, Elaine Gamboa-Cuneta, Helen acts as Sharon's second mother and has treated Cuneta like her own daughter since the popular TV-movie star was still a child.

With their current political differences, the aunt and her niece have to endure rumors that they are estranged and not on speaking terms.

Sotto is the wife of Sen. Tito Sotto, campaign manager of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa (PnM).

Cuneta is married to lawyer Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, who is running for senator under the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC).

"Before the impeachment of former President Estrada, Kiko talked to my husband to see if they could accommodate him into their party since he had no party at that time," Sotto said.

"Kiko had no place in LAMP, which is a coalition of the LDP Party. But Tito was trying to push for him to get in. When the impeachment news broke out, Kiko changed his mind. He grabbed the opportunity to go to Edsa and aligned himself with the PPC. I think it worked in his favor."

Sotto's husband chose to stay with the LDP. "It's party loyalty," she explained. "(Former Executive Secretary) Ed Angara asked him to stay with the LDP."

To this day, however, Cuneta has remained close to her despite their political differences, Sotto said.

"She's always here in my house with her baby Simone. This is her hangout. Even if she doesn't come, she calls me up consistently. I always tell her to be careful.

"It's hard to destroy our foundations. I will not allow that. Politics is a filthy, violent and dirty world. I should not allow it to affect us. It's not worth it."

She added: "You shouldn't let the issues affect you. Family is so important to us."

Mama

"We respect each other's opinion," Sotto said. "I cannot blame Sharon if she supports her husband. Any wife will do that even if deep within her, she may not totally agree."

The aunt and niece simply avoid talking about politics when they are together.

"It happened before when Sharon's dad was with Marcos and we chose to go with Cory. I'm sure Mayor (Pablo) Cuneta felt bad about it, but Sharon never took it against us," Sotto said.

The megastar even calls her "Mama" or "Mad," which Sotto says is short for mother.

"Sharon grew up with me," Sotto said. "She even says that she's closer to me than her own mom. I treated her like my own daughter. I am her mentor. There was that point in my life when I was still single and I told my sister Elaine that if she would give Sharon to me, I would not get married anymore.

"I was with Sharon in all the important moments in her life when she was growing up. In fact, I have more pictures with her than she and her mom. I helped her in her school problems. I attended her graduation."

Sharon's dream

Sotto said it was Cuneta's dream to see her husband and her Uncle Tito in one political party. Cuneta felt sad when the two politicians joined different parties.

"Sharon cried because she wanted them to be together," Sotto revealed. "Tito was willing to support Kiko. He (Kiko) ran for Congress but lost. When he married Sharon, he thought about running for the Senate. But what can we do, he chose to go with the other party?"

Sotto describes Cuneta as very affectionate and thoughtful. She remembers chastising her niece only once—when Cuneta was still in love with Gabby Concepcion.

Concepcion, who is now based in the United States, has a daughter with Cuneta, Kristina Cassandra or KC, now 17.

"The good thing about Sharon is that she accepts her mistakes and she listens to me," Sotto said. "I have always been there for her. I am really ready to fight for her."

Show biz over politics

Sotto has no intention of joining politics and would rather remain in show biz. She recently joined the cast of the new ABS-CBN soap, "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

Sotto said she would choose show biz over politics any time.

"In show biz, the intrigue is merely superficial. Even now, after Tito has been in politics for 15 years, I still cannot stomach the system. Your friends before will be your enemies tomorrow.

"That's why I never get involved in politics. I can't stand people who are plastic. I don't assert myself and I don't steal the scene from my husband. The less you talk, the less trouble you will face."

Sotto said she doesn't even go to the Senate except on the rare occasions that she is invited to attend the gathering of Senate spouses.

"There are wives who let themselves get carried away too much when the issue is political," Sotto maintained.

"My attitude is 'Thy will be done'. . . I have proven my worth in show biz and I guess I don't have to prove anything anymore. I just see to it that I rear my children in the best way I can, according to God's rules.

"I leave up everything to God. My only prayer at this point is for the Filipinos to unite."

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6 soldiers killed in Jolo

JOLO, Sulu—Abu Sayyaf extremists, apparently avenging a comrade's death, opened fire on a passenger van yesterday in Talipao town, killing six soldiers and three civilians, officials said.

Nine other Army soldiers riding the van were injured in the attack by Moro extremists in the mountainous town of Talipao, officials said.

Asakil Alpain, one of the wounded soldiers, said they were aboard a commuter van on their way back to their barracks in the nearby town of Panglima Estino when about 100 rebels, armed with rifles and grenade launchers, fired at them from both sides of the road.

"We were able to fire back and some of the rebels were hit," he said.

The first volley of rebel fire instantly killed six soldiers and three civilians aboard the van, including a pregnant woman. The rebels withdrew into a forest when army reinforcements arrived, military officials said.

Government troops were pursuing the rebels. Jolo island is about 940 kilometers south of Manila.

Army Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez said the attack may have been in retaliation for the death of an Abu Sayyaf commander, Jawawi Susukan, and one of his men during a military raid on a rebel safehouse in Jolo's capital town on Saturday.

Susukan is the younger brother of another Abu Sayyaf rebel commander who led the kidnapping of 21 Western vacationers and Asian workers from a Malaysian diving resort last year. All but one of the hostages, a Filipino resort worker, have been freed reportedly after a huge ransom payment.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a military offensive against the guerrillas early this month when they threatened to execute an American hostage, Jeffrey Schilling, whom they separately kidnapped in August.

Schilling of Oakland, California, was rescued unharmed in Jolo three weeks ago.

The rebels say they are fighting to establish a Muslim state in the South but the government regards them as bandits.

Arroyo's administration is pursuing peace talks with a larger Muslim separatist rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. *AP*

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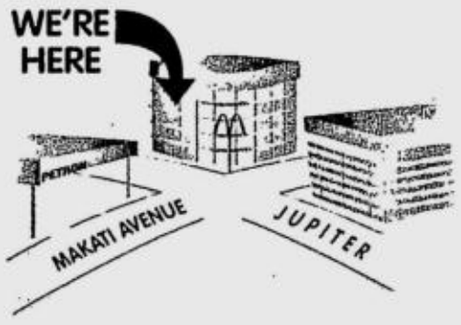

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Vol. 16 No. 141
ISSN 0116-2642

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Go figure

EDITORIAL

THE PRESS has been forced to evaluate itself, ironically by events unfolding at Edsa on behalf of a man with neither regard for nor understanding of the role of the media in a free society.

The Edsa throngs have attacked—in some instances, literally—news organizations, singling out the leading TV networks, ABS-CBN and GMA-7. During the arrest of the deposed president, his followers rained invectives and stones on OB vans and reporters on the scene. They tried to wreck cameras. Their idol never got a fair shake from the networks, they said to justify their violent acts.

You had it coming, the ex-president's son, JV Ejercito, told the media in so many words when asked about the hostile acts committed by his father's supporters. The perceived violations by journalists of the tenets of their profession of which fairness is way up there can never justify acts of violence. This is a switch for journalists working under the iron rule of Marcos. To be fair, to accord equal treatment to the Marcos administration as well as the political opposition and other like-minded sectors could result in violent repercussions for the reporter.

To be sure, being unfair is a most devastating accusation one can throw at a newspaper or at a TV or radio station. Because it strikes at the heart of its being. Which is credibility. When credibility goes, everything goes. And the going is irreversible. Neither elected to the job nor licensed to practice, journalists and the media outlets they work for have to establish a consistent record of fairness in reporting to earn credibility, to deserve the trust of the public and its patronage. Only then do they gain the right to continue doing the job they have taken upon themselves to do. It doesn't work any other way.

Comments from various news anchors of Net 25 which has been continuously telecasting the eruption of "Edsa III," have taunted ABS-CBN and GMA-7 for "ignoring" a "newsworthy" event. It is, of course, and the INQUIRER has been covering it as such. And, if our nose for news had been somewhat dulled by the frequency of our upheavals, we only had to get calls from BBC, from the media in Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia, among others, to make us sniff harder.

When ABS-CBN and GMA-7 did come around to cover Net 25's people power, the network whined that it was too little, too late. Worse, the little that there was, was unfair, they said. But, look who's talking? Owned by the Iglesia ni Cristo, Net 25 would have been a station after Marcos' own heart. It only reports the good and the beautiful, as Imelda Marcos used to say, about Estrada. Not once has Net 25 raised the truth about the detention of Estrada. It is obvious that whenever the crowds thin out, it resorts to tight shots. It further resorts to the distortion of the truth by showing footage when the crowds are thickest and pass it off as "live." Also, its crowd estimates do not ever fall below half a million.

Estimating the size of a huge assembly is often problematical. Estrada's former press secretary, Dong Puno, scored GMA-7 for placing the Edsa figures at 30,000. That's "either too low or too dated," he said. Or, too dismissive would be more appropriate. If there's one thing valid in the suspicions of the pro-Estrada camp about the media coverage of their people power, this is it. Even the INQUIRER is hard put getting the right numbers. For sure, not from Net 25.

Late Friday night, GMA-7 aired an update of the Edsa scene. At the end, the reporter asked a police chief superintendent about his estimate of the crowd. First, he said he had to explain—impressive up to that point—how he came up with his figure, citing how many people can stand on one square meter, etc. Then, against a backdrop of wave upon wave of humans behind him, the general said with a straight face: "25,000." And the reporter, who should have known better because she was right there with eyes to see, did not question the general's propaganda.

There's no denying the numbers. Even the intelligence chief of the Armed Forces, Victor Corpus, had to concede that on the second night of Estrada's Edsa, there were 270,000 warm bodies; the following night, it was 127,000. And it has hovered over the latter figure in the past two nights, not any less. That is a fact that has yet to be fully reported. At this point, it has nothing to do with fairness and accuracy. Nothing to do with fears of reprisal from the Macapagal administration. We believe that the media are right now saddled with fears of a possible transfer of power to the discredited Estrada, or an unknown group of power-grabbers. The question is: Will the media set aside their credibility for the sake of shutting out the undesirables from the Palace?

Covering 'poor people power'

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

IS the "poor people power" rally at Edsa a legitimate event that ought to have been covered more widely by media? Or is it not worthy of full coverage because it is carried out by people perceived to be on the margins of mainstream society and, therefore, are cloutless?

Large masses of people came out to announce their loyalty to the fallen Joseph Estrada, make President Macapagal resign and restore Erap in Malacañang. They were protesting the way Erap has been treated by the new administration after his dizzying descent from power. They were protesting the way he is being incarcerated. Did this mass of people deserve full media coverage?

Before I answer let me remind readers that I was unrelenting, and often harsh, in my criticism of President Estrada. But I was never intentionally anti-Erap (nor am I today anti-Macapagal). I am merely an observer who wants to share my thoughts with those who are willing to listen. My commentary is goaded not by a personal agenda but guided by a desire to contribute to the public debate of the issues of the day.

Having reminded you thus, let me say that as a journalist, I was bothered by the short shrift given by media to the pro-Erap demonstrations, first at the ex-president's arrest and, second the succeeding people power-type outcry at the intersection of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue in Mandaluyong. This time the coverage was a far cry from the practically unlimited time and space given to Edsa II last January. What was different this time?

Okay, so some reporters and TV crews were manhandled by angry Erap boosters. But that's an occupational hazard. Reporters routinely cover wars and expose themselves to the same dangers combatants face. There's no excuse for not covering an event. An event is an event. If its funding is suspect and its objective spurious, you expose it as such. But you have to cover it. The least reporters and TV cameramen could have done was cover the happenings from a safe distance.

Does this mean I'm pro-Erap now? It only means fairness, ethics and credibility in journalism are important to me.

Not so incidentally, Erap's arrest proves once again how bad the training is in the Philippine National Police. The PNP has never been known for restraint and finesse and they proved that again when they sent hundreds of police to get Estrada. A negotiation between the arresting authorities and the Erap camp for a low-key arrest or a quiet surrender would have precluded the confrontations that ensued. Indeed, the rally at the Edsa Shrine could possibly have been averted if Erap's pick-up was less infra-dig (British colloquialism for "*infra dignitatem,*" or something below one's dignity).

Is an event given imprimatur by Cory Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin more legitimate than one sanctioned by Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile? Is an event participated in by civil society more legit than one carried out by marginalized society? Are the darlings of the social establishment more photogenic than the denizens of society's lower echelons? What's legitimate and not?

No doubt, the evidence so far against Erap is overwhelming. But it's a canon of the law that a person is innocent until proven guilty. And this is the least we can give the ex-president, however foully guilty we may think he is.

But his supporters suspect, and indeed claim, that their champion is being railroaded into conviction and ignominy. And they're up in arms.

Erap and his fans claim he's being persecuted. They claim he's not getting due process. They claim he's being singled out, even though past presidents were themselves guilty of crime or negligence. Unfortunately for them, it cannot be argued that because the arm of the law was too short to catch former leaders suspected of criminal activity, future ones shouldn't be put before the bar of justice either.

I was once pulled over by an American policeman, when I was still living in the United States, for speeding. When I protested that another motorist was going even faster than I, he matter-of-factly said: "Yeah, but I had to get one of you." Incidentally, the cop let me go without a ticket when I proved that I didn't have a moving traffic violation in the 28 years that I had lived in the United States.

So the law must bring to justice those it can catch. Is that fair? Of course not, but, as John Kennedy reminded us, "Life is not fair."

What life often is, is frustrating. And Erap's legions are frustrated. And angry and lusting for revenge and trouble and "justice" for their idol. Will they get it? If you know the answer, please let us all know.

We must have thought our headaches were over when Erap took that barge on the Pasig to, we all thought, cruel oblivion. Were we in for a surprise! Society is polarized and the air is pregnant with danger. The nation has been through perilous times before and we're in such a stew yet again. Where do we go from here?

Luckily, politics is the art of give-and-take. Each side in this controversy has initially taken a hard stance. But sooner or later, someone will give in and positions will slacken and compromises will be reached. It is especially useful for the government to be sensitive and adjustable to the dynamics of the current situation. Its stability is at stake. Even when this current outcry dies down, Erap's legions will, like the Zulu of old and the Masai of today, keep coming back to fight.

Where do we go from here? President Macapagal must be her own person. She cannot keep governing by proxy, listening to constituencies that she perceives to be important to her stay in power. The Catholic Church, former presidents (except Erap of course), certain segments of civil society and the military carry clout in this government.

But Ms Macapagal must weigh the situation without being prisoner to the wants of those who have sway with her. She must be flexible and use common sense. Most of all, she must remember that she is President of all the people and she must balance the varying interests of all. If society remains polarized, that is a danger signal for the President.

Leandro V. Coronel is a writer who formerly lived in the United States.

Again, the 'dumb' masa

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOME of the text messages were positively hilarious. One said that as a result of the current rally at the Edsa Shrine, Metro Manila has experienced a zero crime rate. Another said they are paying different rates to people who go to Edsa: P300 for those who go there daily, P500 for those who come from the provinces, P700 for those who bring lead pipes and P300 for the toothless and ugly. Still another issued the call, "All those who believe that Erap is innocent, please light a candle—and burn your house down."

Even in gatherings—I was in a rowdy one last Friday—the jokes were flying thick and fast. One said the rally at Edsa was not going to grow as fast as Edsa II because the people there did not know how to "text." Another said that you could make a killing there (no pun intended) if you put up booths that offered dental and facial services. Still another announced that a surprise guest was due at Edsa—Nora Aunor. She would claim this time that she was being battered by Gloria.

All this, like I said, are positively hilarious, but I don't know that they also miss the point about the phenomenon that is taking place at Edsa. Irreverence is sublime, but only if it is possessed of a sense of irony, only if it also captures the larger dimensions of an event. There is a darker side to this snobbery, which is not as hilarious. I saw it during the first couple of days of the so-called "Edsa III" in many letters in the e-mail. One letter writer had it on good authority the people who went to Edsa were *bayaran* or religious conscripts, paid for or coerced variously by the Iglesia ni Cristo, the El Shaddai, the Puwersa ng Masa and the Erap cronies. Another wondered what mammoth crowd they were talking about, when it was clearly the product only of Net 25 manipulating the images.

The last few days would have shown that the crowd is truly massive. I asked the TV people who interviewed me the last few days about its size and they told me that on the first day alone of the rally it already reached the scale of Edsa II. Not all of those who went there could possibly have been bought or coerced. And I am not so sure that even those who were so did not find the money or religious sanction purely gravy. Nothing but resolute blindness can make anyone fail to appreciate the size of that crowd—the same resolute blindness e-mail writers and "texters" are accusing the crowd of, calling their rally an exercise in exonerating a thief.

That is the even darker side to this snobbery, the attitude of despair and the scorn for the *masa* as being hopelessly stupid. Another letter writer expressed it in this way: "Condemn me if you want, but I am ashamed to be a Filipino. What's happening in Edsa right now has made me realize that our country has gone to the dogs. Who in his right mind, pray tell me, would go and rally behind a thief?" The other side of that coin is the call to fight fire with fire, to muster the Edsa II forces to rival the throng at Edsa or to let their sentiments be known through a noise barrage. Several groups who were at the forefront of Edsa II have actually called for that. Some have even suggested police action to rid the Edsa Shrine of the plague that has visited it.

The last one is idiotic. I have no doubt that crowd includes thugs and hooligans—some of them were caught on TV puncturing the tires of cars, and they have been harassing TV and newspaper reporters—and should be arrested when caught in the act. But to dismiss the throng as nothing more than riffraff that should be gotten rid of like garbage, that is not to be anti-Erap, that is to be anti-people.

While at this, Jaime Cardinal Sin hasn't made things better by calling on the crowd that has presumably desecrated the hallowed ground that is the Edsa Shrine to leave, or be pushed out by moral or physical force. That ground, as he says, also legally being Church property and not public domain.

Well, that shrine may be Church property, but it has also become a political symbol, some kind of Hyde Park, where people are free to voice their opinions, where people are free to oppose tyranny as they see it, where people are free to do the impossible. To prevent people who hold a different political belief, however batty, or worse, a different social rank, however low, from using it for what they at least think are those same purposes, is to betray its spirit.

The insistence that it is Church property should only produce more wrinkles. At the very least, it raises all sorts of questions about the separation of Church and State: if the Edsa Shrine is religious ground, what in God's name are we celebrating a secular function there for every February—and probably now every January? At the very most, if the Edsa Shrine is Church property, then it gives the impression that the Church must be very rich, which is also probably the reason why it wants to keep the company only of the very rich.

The call for mustering a crowd or for demonstrations of popular will to meet the one at Edsa on the other hand is a huge mistake for two reasons. The more patent of them is that it reduces the problem to a contest of numbers, a contest the Edsa II forces cannot possibly win at this point. I hope Bayan Muna, Akbayan, Kompil and other groups scrap their plans to hold noise barrages, caravans and other conspicuous demonstrations of "true popular will." It would only make them look pathetic and send another wrong message to the public. The same kind of wrong message government sent the public by arresting Erap before the elections.

Far more importantly, it misses the crucial point that the people who mass at Edsa today are ***not*** the enemy. They are the people. The same people we fought Edsa for, the same people we want to jail Erap for, the same people we want to build a future for.

I grant it is not easy hearing people like Panfilo Lacson orate on the principle of due process and *karapatang pantao*. I grant it is not easy seeing Miriam Defensor-Santiago grinning on the Edsa stage rather than splattered all over Edsa itself without a parachute to cover her remains. But there are other voices there, ones issuing from the parched throats of the poor though they are lost in the haze of the Puwersa ng Masa's valedictions, or deceptions. There are other sights there, those of the toothless, the provincial folk with their *bayongs*, even those clutching P200 with bony fingers. They are not the enemy.

I cannot see why we should confront them, or scorn them, or dismiss them. I cannot see why we shouldn't see them and hear them. I cannot see why we shouldn't ask ourselves: why are they there? What the hell happened to make them go there?

(To be concluded)

Erap made ₱300M a day as president?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT A RECENT PTV-4 talk show hosted by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and columnist Alex Magno, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo and Government Corporate Counsel Amado Valdez, as well as the chief coordinator of the private prosecutors, lawyer Ricardo "Toy" Nepomuceno, sought to address the perception of segments of the *masa* that Joseph Estrada is being persecuted and deprived of due process in the plunder case against him. They stressed that detention upon determination of prima facie evidence in a crime is very much a part of the judicial process, and that the accused gets his chance to air his side during the trial.

But Marcelo pointed out that in Estrada's case it cannot be said that he was deprived of due process. He noted that since November 2000, when the plunder charge was filed against Estrada before the Ombudsman, his lawyers have not bothered to file any affidavit, for instance, on the excise tax and *jueteng* cases brought up by Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. The only conclusion, says Marcelo, is that "*totoo at tama ang mga kaso*." This perception is further buttressed, says Marcelo, by the fact that Estrada's lawyers have made no motion to file for bail, when the first tendency of any lawyer when his client is confronted with a case is to make it appear weak, so that the client becomes eligible for bail. Instead, what they have been resorting to are mere dilatory tactics.

* * *

Dean Amado Valdez, who was involved as a private prosecutor in the Senate impeachment trial pointed out, on the other hand, that the prosecution had estimated that Estrada was making about P300 million a day from his various deals. This figure was arrived at by dividing the estimated loot uncovered by the prosecutors by the number of days Estrada was in office. Contrast this, said Valdez, with the daily minimum wage earned by the common man of about P250, and one gets an idea of how many light-years Erap was removed from the *masa* he professed to love.

* * *

The Manila Times had an intriguing front-page story yesterday about how it is possible that the Estradas may have become marginalized in the current agitation of Estrada loyalists for the ouster of President Macapagal. According to the story, the group of Estrada allies composed of Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, and PMA '71 classmates Gregorio Honasan and Ping Lacson appear to have moved away from the original aim of resisting the Estrada arrest and his transfer to a new detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, to its demand now for Ms Macapagal to step down. The story unmistakably infers that this group is exerting effort to get into power, but using Estrada as a convenient excuse to gather "people power."

In fact, the report quoted the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) as opining that in the event the scheme of this group to pressure Ms Macapagal to step down succeeds, Estrada "would never be anything more than a puppet of his former protégés and allies." The implication is obvious: these plotters are out to grab power for themselves, in the process consigning Estrada to the *kangkungan*.

* * *

Given the long track record of Enrile and Honasan at fomenting coup plots, reports about their attempt to grab power for themselves would not be difficult for the citizens to believe. Lacson, who for a while was at odds with his PMA classmate, is now said to have joined cause with him, and the news reports say the two are busy trying to recruit military and police officers to their cause. As for Santiago, she'd do anything to boost her sagging candidacy in between cooking up yarns about her suicidal intentions.

* * *

In line with their plot, the Enrile-Honasan-Lacson group has been announcing to the Edsa Shrine crowd that so many generals have "defected" to their side, while Santiago was quoted as saying that a number of Army brigade commanders have joined them too. Yet they give no names and in fact one of those rumored to have "defected," Army Chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, the first UN commander of East Timor, quickly issued a statement urging his men to "steadfastly support" the leadership of the Philippine Army, the AFP and President Macapagal. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has pooh-poohed the reports of "defections" as pure destabilization attempts as he stressed the solidarity of the AFP behind Ms Macapagal.

* * *

What is sad about Honasan and Enrile is that they have remained incorrigible through various administrations: they keep on destabilizing and fomenting coup plots that have been long ago discredited, and which the Filipino people have rejected after Marcos fled. I feel sad for Enrile because the man is really bright, but there is an obvious flaw in his character, so that he has to always be against all flags. As for Honasan, *naka tsamba na siya na ma*-elect na senator, yet he still prefers to be a perennial coup plotter, instead of trying to shine in the Senate. Is it a case of once a coup plotter, always a coup plotter?

* * *

Sensible military officers, active or retired, like to point out that when the military acts to intervene in civilian affairs it is always for a good moral reason, and the two Edsas have proved this. The military on two counts chose to go against the civil authority and be with the people because that authority was totally discredited and disgraced by corruption and abuses. These elements are totally absent in the case of the Macapagal administration. For the coup plotters to think that the military would just rise up in arms to either return to power a leader disgraced before the world or to boost the burning ambitions of a misguided few plotters is to render them a grave injustice.

Napakababaw naman ng pagtingin ng coup plotters *sa kanilang mga kasamang* military. The military, whose lives are always on the line in defense of their country, know better than to shed their patriotism just to indulge the ambitions of a few misguided elements.

* * *

The coup plot is one side of the coin. Some observers have noted, however, that the loyalist happening at Edsa is now being used as a grand *miting de avance*, and in fact the Puwersa ng Masa candidates have cancelled all their rallies and appearances around the country and instead have returned to Manila to be at the Shrine. Their rallies there are beamed by paid radio all over the country. *Medyo nalugi ang* People Power Coalition *dito*, as the latter's candidates continue their provincial sorties.

Japan textbook row upsets Korean youth

FEATURE

Chisa Fujioka

SEOUL—Japan's approval of a controversial history textbook has hit a raw nerve among a generation of young Koreans who eagerly embraced a recent warming of ties between the two one-time foes.

Capturing the mood of the moment is a music video by South Korean pop singer Kim Sung-jib.

Based on a popular 1990 film about Korea's independence movement during Japanese colonial rule, the video for the ballad "Promise," ends with a five-second shot of a burning Japanese flag.

"Their war is not over yet," a caption reads.

Director Kim Kwang-ho left the sequence out of an original version of the video at a time of improving relations.

The decision on the textbook, which critics say glosses over wartime atrocities, prompted him to reinstate the sequence.

The video is being aired by a cable channel three times a day. Young Koreans, says Kim Kwang-ho, have responded positively.

History is a sensitive subject for Koreans where Japan is concerned. Japan colonized Korea between 1910 and 1945, barring them from using their own language and forcing thousands into slave labor.

While Korean teenagers have grown up with daily doses of their favorite Japanese animation programs and now proudly sport Tokyo's newest fashions, anti-Japanese protests among students reveal how deep-rooted anger dies hard.

"It makes me angry that the Japanese government is teaching lies to those shaping our future," said 15-year-old Im Woo-chon. "They should not teach lies."

Director Kim left the closing sequence out of the original version of the video last year.

"The Japanese government is giving no thought to amending the textbook and keeps on insisting on its original stand," he says.

"That's why we inserted the shots."

The latest spat has threatened to reverse steadily improving ties between South Korea and Japan, which include a groundbreaking agreement to co-host next year's 2002 World Cup soccer finals.

Seoul says the history book, set for circulation next year, justifies Japan's invasion of much of Asia in the early 20th century and avoids mention of the plight of more than 100,000 so-called comfort women, mostly from the Korean peninsula, who were forced to provide sex to Japanese troops during World War II.

The Japanese Education Ministry endorsed the junior high school history textbook earlier in April after screening by a ministry panel, whose recommendations led to 137 sections being revised due to controversial content.

The draft of the textbook had said Japan's 35-year occupation of the Korean peninsula was in line with international law.

Following the panel's recommendation, the publishers revised the text, making clear the annexation of Korea was backed by force to quash opposition by the Korean people.

Tokyo's refusal to address South Korean complaints has drawn protests from across Asia and led Seoul to recall its ambassador from Japan.

Periodic remarks by Japanese politicians justifying wartime atrocities and Tokyo's refusal to directly compensate comfort women have further fuelled public anger in South Korea.

"I hope my country takes more direct measures and solves the history issue with Japan thoroughly this time," said 17-year-old Kim Kyong-sil.

Her school gave up an annual spring picnic this week to hold a rally with 10 comfort women at Japan's embassy in central Seoul.

A half-century of restrictions on Japanese cultural products including books, music and film was only eased in 1998 after Japan's late Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi extended a written apology to President Kim Dae-jung.

The influx helped foster a fascination with all things Japanese and relaxed the notion that liking Japanese products was a betrayal of South Korea.

South Koreans were also touched by an outpouring of condolences from Japanese in January when a 26-year-old Korean student was killed while trying to rescue a drunken Japanese man from an oncoming rush-hour Tokyo subway train.

But Japan's failure to face its past has hit a nerve with teens like Kang Hong-kyu.

"I've come to hate Japan more after I saw their attitude in dealing with the history textbook issue," said Kang, a university freshman.

"I didn't have good feelings for Japan before; it's now become worse." *Reuters*

Common ground

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

VICTORS of People Power II need to be magnanimous toward our unfortunate countrymen who are likely to fail at an imitation of them at Edsa. Perhaps, the flattery is insincere or unintended, but envy is the vice of republics. In demonstrating emotional support for their fallen idol at the very venue of his defeat, on the consecrated ground of his adversaries' own religious icon, such imitation at least acknowledges the power of direct democracy. It pays obeisance to the ultimate sovereignty of the people as the source of all power, whenever our institutions and processes fail, as the Senate did when it assassinated itself in the name of Erap as Caesar last January.

The victors can certainly afford to be generous, at least to the *masa* supporters of Erap, who surely do not share his guilt, even if they choose to ignore his culpability. This is a sin of omission for which we could challenge others, including a certain highly respected People Power Coalition senatorial candidate from Makati, to cast the first stone.

Not all, not even a majority, in my opinion, of the multitudes who were at Edsa last week, were there because they were paid to be there, or because they are simply stupid, or dirty, or themselves criminals as many unkind people claim. For some reason, I could not sleep on Friday night, so I ventured out into the crowd there at 2:30 a.m., by which time most *hakot* mercenaries must have left. There seemed to be at least as many sincere people there as at the height of last January's rave parties, though with a decidedly different taste in politics as entertainment. It seemed to me many really wanted to be there, not because they are *tarantado* or *mangmang* or *bayaran*, which they are uncharitably being called in text, e-mail and full-page ads by the perfumed crowd. Maybe, the text jokes are just nervousness over the unexpected turn of events, a whistling in the digital dark, reflecting an innate fear of a mob to which one does not belong.

Unruly though they were, unwashed and unabashedly loyal to Erap, and mostly poor to hopelessly poor, I think many were there out of a desperate sense of unfairness, or a sneering cynicism that reform and retribution will stop with the one man who at least pretended to be one of them. Erap is their El Cid, who may be politically dead, but is still useful to the Puwersa ng Masa, who have propped him up on a stallion of idolatry for his faithful to behold his mortal wounds. No better election poster could be printed or conceived by those taking advantage of Edsa's mystique than Erap's mug shot and the televised multitudes on Net-25. But is it also the last gasp of Erap demagoguery? Only the elections will tell.

Yes, retribution and justice must be done on Erap the plunderer. But what is plunder to people who daily wonder where their next meal will come from? Many of those at Edsa last week probably know, in their hearts, that Erap illegally enriched himself in office, but why, they ask, should Erap be singled out? Doesn't everyone in high public office rob the country blind? Yet, where is blind justice?

The Marcoses and their cronies have never been punished; nor the *kamaganaks* of Cory. Neither have the crooks of the Ramos administration. Many local government officials reek of big-time plunder, but they're untouchable now because of connections with Edsa Dos personalities. Was Erap really so much worse than many of these? Perhaps he was, in some ways, but he didn't help himself any by flaunting the *beso-beso* conventions of the more respectable, and careful, crooks in society, who save their demagoguery for election time and don't make class war a political lifestyle.

Making an example of just one big fish, even a sitting president, will not be a historical turning point, as the more optimistic pundits assert, if not followed by the investigation and punishment of others, especially friends and allies of the current dispensation. The prosecution of Erap will be just a blip on the way to business as usual unless some of the next idols to fall are sacred cows, allies of some who promise "*uubusin ang mga* corrupt," but continue to condone corruption in their friends and patrons. We shall see no end to the corruption and plunder, by which our future itself, is plowed under, unless those in power who claim to be graft-busters can find the courage to go after more than just their own political enemies. The investigation of alleged plunder by Makati's Erap Jr., Jojo Binay, is a case in point, which the elections won't end, no matter how they turn out. Many other cases cry out for justice.

If the people of Edsa Dos are full of disdain at seeing a rowdy, ragamuffin reflection of themselves in the people of Edsa last week, it may be because we can only go to the deep well of the people's ultimate sovereignty so often. People power is like chemotherapy. The cancer that was Erap could not be cured by the conventional surgery of impeachment. It needed an Edsa dosage of people power. But this medicine has some bad side effects on the body politic, not the least of which are that it is addictive and no one can guarantee its counterfeits, which are also amalgams of religion and politics that any madman can load into a hypodermic of populist hype to foment trouble.

All this pious talk from Jaime Cardinal Sin about how the Edsa Shrine is private property only deepens the impression that the Church hierarchy serves the rich, not the poor, and fuels the fire between them. It seems the poor are fine as objects of alms-giving and pew-fillers, but let them come as Erap die-hards and suddenly it's desecration of the Vatican's holy ground. The forces of People Power II can surely find some common ground with the pro-Erap hordes on at least one of the latter's grievances, namely, that the drive against corruption should not end with him. *Noblesse oblige* requires we make common cause with Erap's earnest supporters, not haughtily revile them, else we face the burial of people power in the bloody ground of political strife and class conflict.

Photos of columnists; Youngblood articles

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

INITIALLY, the letters I received from the readers dealt with the INQUIRER's treatment of news and photos. The complaints ranged from sensationalism to biased news presentation to prejudicial presentation of photos.

Months later, letters about grammatical errors and wrong choice of words were added to my mailbox. Except for two instances, the cases of "careless proofreading" the readers pointed out turned out to be valid. When informed of the mistakes, the section editors concerned could only shake their heads in disbelief and disappointment.

Then the letters focused (and still do) on the columnists. The letter senders were the subjects of critical statements by the columnists. Upon receipt of these letters, I send a copy to the Opinion page editor for possible publication in the Letters section and another copy is placed in the pigeonhole of the columnist for his information.

It's up to the columnist to answer the letter if he wants to. But he certainly cannot order the Opinion editor not to publish it. This prohibition is aimed at giving the reader the opportunity to determine who to believe after reading the letter.

But some readers are not content with just examining closely the news, photos and columns. On a number of occasions, I received letters suggesting a change in the photos of the columnists! Either because the photo is deceptive (it looks like a high school picture) or the facial expression is unpleasant (the scowl on the face gave the impression of an angry young man).

Last week, I received an interesting letter on the same subject matter from an American expatriate who lives in Cavite. He remembers the articles written by the late JV Cruz, the press secretary of President Ramon Magsaysay, so he must have been residing here for more than 50 years.

Smiling photo

The reader, who calls himself "Americano," wrote the letter using a manual typewriter. The font he used brought back memories of the days past when the personal computer was considered science fiction. The errors were covered by "Touch and Go" and the corrections were superimposed on the corrected portion.

He observed that "Mr. Conrad Banal has a smiling face. Mr. Mangun has a stern face. The photo of Mr. De Quiros has half a smile yet his eyeglasses look crooked. The new photo of Rina David has a smile. Kris Aquino also has a nice smile. Yet the face of the readers' advocate is not smiling. This makes me not want to smile either. Only a comment!"

Until the reader pointed it out, I did not give much thought to the photos of the columnists. In other newspapers, the columnists are either identified by name or caricature. True, the pictures of the columnists often do not match their actual appearance. But who cares? What is important to the reader is what is written in the column and not how the columnist looks.

Except that it should be a black-and-white solo picture (not cropped from a group picture) and as close to reality as possible, the INQUIRER leaves it to the columnist to decide what photo will accompany his or her column.

Noticeably, most of the photos that are found in the Opinion section are serious-looking. It probably has something to do with the nature of the issues discussed in those pages. If you go to the Lifestyle section, you will see that the facial expression of the photos of the columnists is on the happy side. Perhaps, reflecting the objective of those pages.

The publication of the columnist's photo meets two objectives: one, to break the monotony of the page and two, to give the readers an idea on how their favorite or hated columnist looks like.

If the readers have any suggestions on what kind of picture should accompany the columns, please feel free to write to this column and I will take them up with the Opinion editor.

Youngblood

To encourage the development of the writing skills of our youth, the INQUIRER has a Youngblood section that features the articles written by those in the 20 to 29 age bracket. The age requirement is lowered (but not increased) if the article submitted is really good.

Last week, I received a letter from a newspaper calling my attention to an article that appeared in its website which was later published in the Youngblood section of the INQUIRER.

The complaint proved to be valid. The INQUIRER inadvertently published an article that was earlier posted in another newspaper's website. Based on the records on file, it seems the author of the article initially sent the article to the INQUIRER hoping that it would be immediately approved for publication.

When the article did not see print after a week, the writer probably decided to send it to the website where it was accepted and posted. The Opinion editor said he would not have cleared the publication of the article had he known that it had been submitted to another newspaper.

The INQUIRER apologized to the website for the inadvertent publication.

To avoid a repeat of this incident, the Opinion editor said that henceforth, all contributors to Youngblood shall be required to state in their covering e-mail or letter that the article "has not been submitted for publication or posting in any newspaper, magazine, publication or website and that the article is his or her original work."

If this representation or warranty does not appear in the covering e-mail or letter, the article will go straight to the wastebasket.

So, to the young writers out there who want to break into print in the INQUIRER, please take note of this requirement. It will be a pity to see your efforts go down the drain for failure to comply with this simple directive.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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LETTERS

Crucial moment for the Filipino people

THE CAUCUS of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), the biggest formation of development NGOs in the Philippines and one of the convenors of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II (Kompil II) lauds the Sandiganbayan for the arrest of Joseph Ejercito Estrada. The abominable charge of plunder—the crime allegedly committed by deposed President Joseph Estrada—should not be ignored by the law.

CODE-NGO likewise commends the resolve of the Philippine National Police to carry out the warrant of arrest issued by the Sandiganbayan. They have acted with utmost courtesy to Estrada and extended maximum tolerance to the violent pro-Estrada supporters.

Likewise, we laud the Macapagal administration for within her first 100 days, she not only reached out to the Filipino people but likewise proved that justice can still be realized in this country. Estrada's arrest is a move welcomed by civil society for it is a ray of hope and an indication of the Macapagal administration's decisiveness to rid the government of graft and corruption and bring justice to the people.

Like the pro-Estrada supporters, we believe that the deposed president should be given a chance to defend himself because even a common criminal deserves his day in court. The right to due process is a basic right of any citizen of this country as enshrined in the Constitution.

At this point, we declare that we are against any move of Estrada's legal advisers to either put him under house arrest or give him the opportunity to post bail. We are confident that the Sandiganbayan will decide on these motions with professionalism and high regard for the provisions of the law and the Constitution.

And as we await the impending trial of Estrada, CODE-NGO calls for sobriety and calm among the vanguards of democracy and the rest of the Filipino people. We respect the right of the pro-Estrada supporters to air their sentiments. however, we also ask them to respect the rule of law just like the anti-Estrada movement respected the impeachment process until it became evident that it was turning into a sham.

We must keep in mind that we are a nation still struggling to recover from an economy plundered by the highest official of the land. We are a people waiting for the wounds of divisive propaganda to heal so that peace and development can flourish. This is a crucial moment for the Filipino people. Let due process take its course. Let the hand of justice lead Joseph Estrada to his rightful place in history. Justice must protect the innocent but it should also punish the guilty.—**DANILO A. SONGCO, national coordinator, Caucus of Development NGO Networks, 2nd Floor, CCS Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City**

Seeing the press as the enemy

RISKING life and limb to get the story is part of the risk of being a journalist. We find a journalist in the midst of war zones and street fights, living in the most appalling conditions and suffering the worst indignities to be our eyes and ears in the most historic moments.

But this does not apply to the coverage of the pro-Estrada rally on Edsa. The crowd there has decidedly pinpointed media persons as the enemy. Journalists are no longer the observers caught in the crossfire—they are the very targets of the pro-Estrada mob.

There is a big difference between getting caught in the middle of trouble and being the actual target. In such a situation, publishers, editors and the public cannot and should not expect reporters to risk their lives to satisfy the need for information.

And neither do the pro-Estrada mob and media entities have the right to criticize the other media entities for what they perceive as lackluster coverage of the unfolding events. They brought this upon themselves.—**ATANACIO SALVADOR, 29 Jupiter St., Bel Air, Makati City**

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Erap's last card

WITH THE RECENT arrest of former President Joseph Estrada, perhaps this piece may enlighten some sectors, including the members of the prosecution, the defense and the bench. The law on plunder (Republic Act 7080) was passed in 1991 to deter government officials from committing large-scale graft and corruption. It was born out of the lessons learned from the regime of Ferdinand Marcos, who was reputed to have amassed ill-gotten wealth to the tune of $15 billion. The man died in 1988, while in exile, so no criminal charges were filed against him.

Under RA 7080, a public officer who, whether by himself or in connivance with members of his family and other persons, accumulates or acquires ill-gotten wealth through a combination or series of overt or criminal acts in the amount of at least P50 million shall be punished with *reclusion perpetua* (life sentence) or death. It was amended in 1993 by RA 7659 to include other participants and define aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Under the law, *reclusion perpetua* means imprisonment of 20 to 40 years. Voluntary surrender coupled with admission of guilt and illness can lighten the penalty. Habitual delinquency aggravates it.

However, I think that the law on plunder has not been carefully studied. P50 million is only about US$100,000. It is too small by foreign standards. Why would stealing such an amount without the use of force and violence be considered more serious than plain robbery?

Aside from that, there was an anti-Marcos sentiment at the time when the law was passed. Congress was headed and composed of anti-Marcos people and its leadership consisted of victims, if not enemies of Marcos. The plunder bill did not encounter strong objections. Those were abnormal times.

Laws passed by Congress which are repugnant to or run in conflict with the Constitution can be declared invalid and unconstitutional. It may not therefore be given effect.

The law on plunder deserves to pass what is known as judicial inquiry. The unconstitutionality of the law on plunder should be questioned by Erap's lawyers now. They can declare that it infringes on his rights, including the right to life, liberty and property.

The plunder law also embraces more than one subject. It is not codified.

Legally though, Erap's last card would be the abrogation or repeal of the law on plunder, which Congress can do, especially if his party becomes the party in power.—**REYNALDO G. ELIZALDE, legal counsel, National Press Club, Rm. 616 Prudential Bank Bldg., Plaza Lacson, Sta. Cruz, Manila**

Appeal to the more sensible demonstrators

PLEASE don't call "it" People Power III. I am not saying that the supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada have no right to peacefully assemble anywhere they want to for it is guaranteed in the Constitution. However, I am saying that to call for people power you must have a noble reason for doing so. The people at Edsa chant that "poor is power" and I totally agree with them.

Yes, "poor is power" unless it is manipulated by the rich for their own personal ends. What I am saying here is that we are not stupid. Quoting from Estrada, "Even I can read between the lines." Even more so, can Juan de la Cruz. It is sad enough that our fellow Filipinos are living in the gutter and yet there are still snakes who plotted and will plot again to overthrow the Macapagal administration by using unknowing Filipinos for their own convenience. These snakes are both old and new, with some of them recently shedding their skin and showing their true colors. One even admits that she lied on television. If she lied then, how can we be sure that she won't lie again especially on matters of national and public interest if ever she gets reelected?

I appeal to the sensible demonstrators at Edsa to think about what happened in the past two years of the Estrada regime. They should realize that they are the base of our society and that their opinions on national issues will always be respected. We must wake up to correct our mistakes, both at Edsa I and II and during the past administrations. But what about the PEA-Amari scam? What about nepotism? We have to start with something and someone for that matter, Estrada is just under our nose, we can't let him get away. Otherwise, we'd be better off if we let a foreign country like Somalia or Mongolia take over, or better yet, let's just disband and establish the "Republic of Banana" with Abu Sabaya as dictator-president.—**LOU JANSSEN DANGZALAN, 6 Doña Juliana St., Doña Carmen Subd., Commonwealth, Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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The WORLD

Israel, Palestinians agree to a ceasefire, peace talks–Mubarak

CAIRO—Israel and the Palestinians have agreed to a ceasefire and resume peace talks in a month, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced Sunday after a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"The Israeli and Palestinians have agreed to a ceasefire on both sides," Mubarak told reporters, adding peace negotiations were due to resume four weeks after it takes effect.

Mubarak said the agreement to stop the violence was contained in a message Israeli Prime Ariel Sharon sent through Peres.

It was not immediately clear exactly when the "ceasefire" would begin.

It would be the first such agreement in the Palestinian uprising or intifada which erupted on Sept. 28.

The two sides made verbal pledges to end the violence at a Palestinian-Israeli summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on October 17, presided over by former US president Bill Clinton.

MUBARAK

But it never took effect, as both sides blamed the other for causing the violence.

Mubarak's announcement came after mortar shells hit Sunday the Kfar Darom settlement in the central Gaza Strip, in spite of firms measures by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to prevent such attacks.

Overnight, Arafat ordered the dissolution of the Fatah body responsible for shelling Israeli settlements, in an attempt to prevent such attacks.

For the first time since the intifada started seven months ago, Fatah, Arafat's faction, claimed responsibility Saturday for two mortar attacks on Jewish settlements in the southern Gaza Strip, in which five settlers were injured.

On Saturday, Israeli soldiers opened fire on a Palestinian's car at the northern entrance to the West Bank town of Bethlehem, in what Palestinians reportedly described as an assassination.

The Palestinians have alleged that around 20 of their activists have been assassinated by the Israeli army.

In other violence, a Palestinian was killed Sunday by a bomb which exploded as a school bus carrying children from a Jewish settlement passed through the West Bank, an Israeli military source said. *AFP*

Pope beatifies Puerto Rican, 4 other role models

VATICAN CITY—Keen on giving his church varied role models, Pope John Paul II on Sunday beatified four founders of religious orders as well as a layman who became the first Puerto Rican to reach the last formal step before possible sainthood.

Puerto Ricans in the crowd in St. Peter's Square cheered heartily and waved their US commonwealth's flag when the Pope read out the name of Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, who died in 1963 after a brief and pious life.

Also beatified was a Quebec native, Esther Blondin, who, using the religious name Mother Marie Anne, founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann in 1850 to educate poor rural children.

Two others so honored on Sunday were Italian women who founded religious orders in the 19th century: Caterina Cittadini and Caterina Volpicelli.

The other person beatified was Manuel Gonzalez Garcia, bishop of Malaga and Palencia, Spain, who died in 1940 after living through the difficult years of the Spanish civil war.

Last month, the pope beatified 233 martyrs—nuns, priests and lay people who died in the Spanish civil war. That ceremony stood out as the largest number ever beatified in a single ceremony, reflecting the pontiff's determination to give his faithful many role models, including some from modern times. *AP*

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Respect Blue Line, Annan urges

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Saturday urged Israel and Lebanon to respect the Blue Line separating the two countries as stipulated in Security Council resolutions.

Annan said he had conveyed his appeal to Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, whom he received in his New York home for more than an hour.

The Blue Line is the boundary between the two countries delineated in May 2000 by the United Nations following Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon, which it had occupied since 1978.

Hariri for his part told reporters here, following his meeting with Annan, that Lebanon had respected the Blue Line. However, Israel was violating it on a daily basis, by sending Israeli air force planes over Lebanese territory, Hariri said. *AFP*

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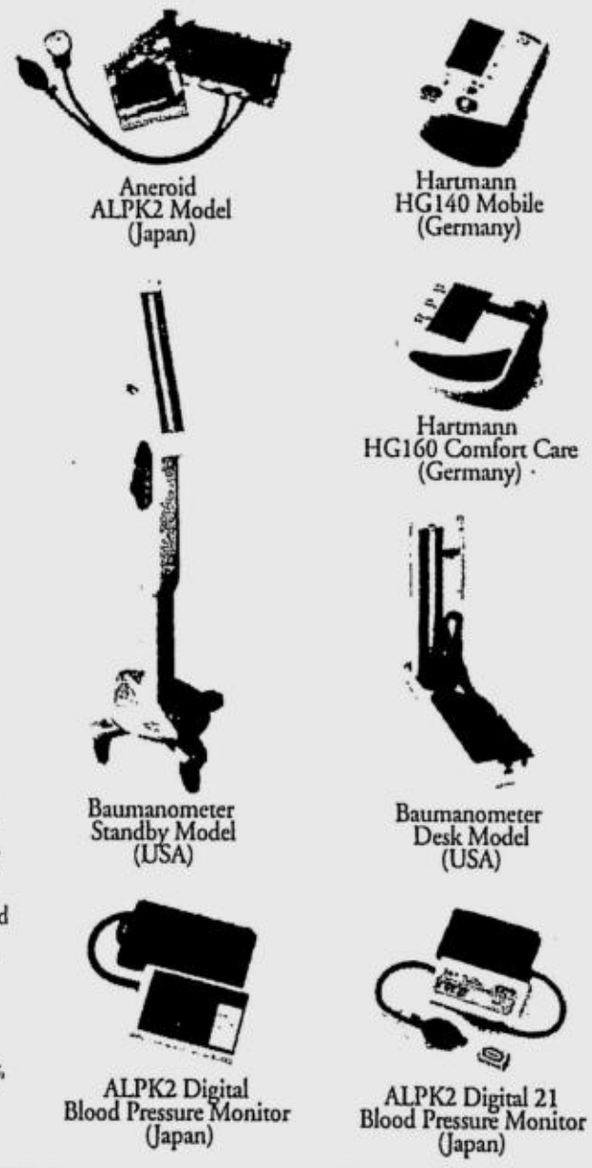

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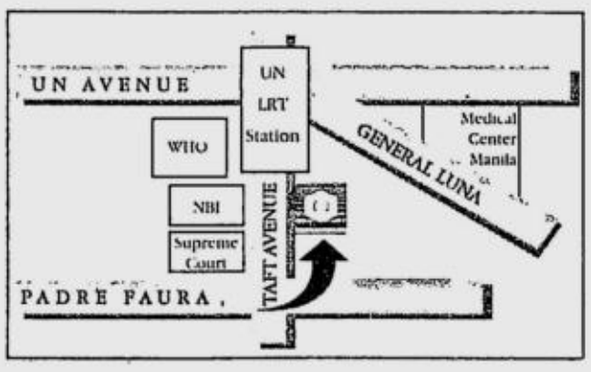

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China still for peaceful reunification, say officials

BEIJING—China has not changed its policy of peaceful reunification with Taiwan despite US arms sales to Taiwan and apparent adjustments by Washington to its long-standing Taiwan policy of "strategic ambiguity," Chinese officials said Sunday.

"The Chinese government's fundamental policy of 'peaceful reunification, one country-two systems' on resolving the Taiwan issue has not changed," a foreign ministry spokesperson said.

"In order to avoid further damage to Sino-US relations, the US side should... stop selling arms to Taiwan and stop using the Taiwan issue to interfere in China's internal affairs," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson was commenting on remarks made late Friday in Washington by US Vice President Dick Cheney in which he reiterated US intentions to "do whatever it took" to defend Taiwan amid a mainland missile build up on its southeastern coast facing Taiwan.

President George W. Bush earlier made the pledge to defend Taiwan following his decision Tuesday to sell Taiwan a $5-billion package of sophisticated weapons.

The sale announcement came despite vehement opposition from Beijing, which accused Washington of interference in its internal affairs and warned that Bush had taken a step down a "dangerous road."

Cheney, in the Friday interview with CNN, also indicated that the US was prepared to shelve its decades old policy of "strategic" or "diplomatic ambiguity" on Taiwan, in which the US has refused to say under what circumstance or to what extent it was willing to go to defend the rebel territory.

"People talk about diplomatic ambiguity, and of course, there has been some ambiguity there over the years," Cheney said.

"But in this particular case, especially given what appears to be a somewhat more threatening posture of the mainland toward Taiwan over the last few months, ambiguity may be exactly the wrong thing to do." *AFP*

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WAHID

Wahid allies hold subdued prayer rally

JAKARTA—Around 20,000 Muslim worshippers prayed on Sunday in a subdued gathering for besieged Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid, who urged supporters against violence a day before parliament is expected to censure him over two financial scandals.

The mostly male congregation, clad in long white robes and green scarves—the color of their 40-million strong Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) Muslim organization—had been expected to build to 100,000 in what would have been one of the biggest prayer rallies Jakarta has seen.

The usual array of bold banners were absent. People instead mostly carried green umbrellas bearing a photograph of their Muslim leader.

Six people were injured when a bottle of chemicals exploded, police said, in the only violence reported in an otherwise calm and well organized gathering in central Jakarta.

Trains and buses crammed with Wahid loyalists, including members of a self-proclaimed suicide squad, have been streaming into the capital for days in a show of support for the embattled leader.

Parliament is expected to censure Wahid on Monday for the second time for his involvement in two financial scandals, bringing him closer to the prospect of impeachment.

Many fear a second censure could spark violence in the capital.

In a short address, the frail Muslim cleric repeated a plea for his supporters not to use violence, urging them to return to their homes after the gathering and not linger in the capital for Monday's House session.

"Hopefully after this, all of you will go home straight away," Wahid said.

"Don't do any damage to Islamic organizations, be it NU or Muhammadiyah and non Islamic organizations," he said.

Muhammadiyah is the country's second-biggest Muslim group.

Sixty-year-old Wahid made only an oblique reference to parliament, with whom he has had a rocky relationship from the start of his 17-month leadership when he likened legislators to preschoolers. *Reuters*

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Fujimori stole $1B from Peru central bank, solon claims

LIMA—Disgraced former president Alberto Fujimori may have fled Peru with $1 billion in cash, securities and gold bars stolen from the central bank, a top legislator was quoted as saying on Saturday.

David Waisman, head of a congressional commission probing graft under Fujimori's decade-long rule which ended in November, said the former president and his fugitive ex-spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos may have each run their own corruption network, worth a total of $2 billion.

"Of course, there are officials implicated in this robbery: Fujimori could not have snatched gold bars from the central bank by himself," Waisman told El Peruano newspaper.

"I can't give any more details because we are treating this case as highly confidential at present," he added.

Another member of the commission, Congressman Luis Chang Ching, told Reuters that Waisman's statements were strictly personal and the investigation had not yet discussed this information.

Fujimori fled to Tokyo last November at the height of a scandal sparked by a video of Montesinos offering a bribe to an opposition legislator. In an unprecedented move, he was promptly fired by Congress as "morally unfit" to rule. *Reuters*

Russian space scientist accused of spying for China

MOSCOW—A Russian space scientist arrested on suspicion of spying for China has been charged with high treason and fraud, news agencies quoted the Russian security services as saying Sunday.

The new charges, which carry an even heavier penalty under Russian law, follow Valentin Danilov's arrest in February in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk.

Danilov, the head of space research at the city's university, has been charged under an article of Russia's legal code that covers passing top secret and classified information to a foreign government.

He is the latest in a series of Russian scientists and foreign nationals arrested in Russia for espionage after apparently falling foul of an upsurge in spy paranoia since former KGB agent Vladimir Putin became president last year.

The local branch of the Russian security service (FSB, formerly KGB) said Danilov had been charged with "high treason" for selling details of Russian satellite technology that could help Beijing develop weapons in space.

He is also accused of fraudulently using international bank accounts to launder money he obtained in return for information.

The scientist's colleagues at Krasnoyarsk university have already issued a public protest at his arrest, claiming that Danilov had merely been pursuing legitimate commercial contacts with a Chinese firm.

The head of the university's institute of thermodynamics, Danilov had signed a contract with the company to supply non-classified technical information about satellites, according to his colleagues.

Danilov's lawyer, Yelena Yevmenova, told Moscow Echo radio on Sunday that the defense wanted a panel of experts to investigate the exact terms of the disputed contract.

Some 20 of Danilov's fellow scientists have written an open letter to the Krasnoyarsk prosecutor protesting about his arrest and the spying charge, reports said.

The scientists argued in their letter that Danilov had for the past 20 years run the university's space physics laboratory, whose activities had officially been declassified in 1992.

Reports of the high treason charge came as Putin was preparing to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan in Moscow on Sunday.

Since Putin came to power just over a year ago, there has been a marked increase in the number of arrests and trials of scientists and foreign nationals charged with spying.

News of the treason charges facing Danilov came only two days after US student John Tobin was sentenced to three years in a Russian labor camp for drugs offences after the FSB labeled the 24-year-old an "apprentice spy."

Last December, retired US naval intelligence officer Edmond Pope was sentenced to 20 years in a Russian jail for trying to buy top-secret information about Russian underwater missiles, although he was later pardoned by Putin on health grounds.

Meanwhile, a court in Kaluga, south of Moscow is soon to rule on the FSB case against Russian defense expert Igor Sutyagin, accused of having passed state secrets to the US when he worked for the USA-Canada research institute. *AFP*

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8 Macedonia soldiers, cops killed in raid

SKOPJE—Calm returned to the Macedonian border area near Kosovo early Sunday as the security forces stepped up patrols in the area where eight soldiers and policemen were killed in an ambush by ethnic Albanian guerillas, the army spokesperson said.

"The situation is calm now, the security forces have stepped up their patrols on the ground and have taken measures adapted to the situation in the border region," army spokesperson Blagoja Markovski said.

The attack Saturday shattered a month-long lull in fighting between the Macedonian security forces and ethnic Albanian separatist guerillas fighting in Macedonia.

Following the attack, Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski has postponed his planned visit to Romania on Sunday, his office said.

But a scheduled three-day trip to the United States on Monday has remained on the agenda, the office said.

Earlier, it was announced that Trajkovski would meet US President George W. Bush in Washington on May 1, where Macedonian leaders are seeking political and economic support for their efforts to stabilize the country.

Markovski confirmed that four soldiers and four policemen had been killed, adding that both armored vehicles, as well as another jeep they had been in, were destroyed.

The lives of the three injured men were not in danger, Markovski said.

"They drove into an ambush, the whole incident lasted not more than 10 minutes," he added. "The Albanian terrorists fled to the mountains and there was no shooting afterwards."

Officials said Saturday that the rebels had attacked Macedonian troops and police in the village of Vejce, in the Tetevo region near the frontier with the UN-run Serbian province of Kosovo, at around 6 p.m. Saturday.

An NLA commander contacted by AFP from Pristina could not confirm the incident, and insisted that his troops were respecting a ceasefire.

The toll is the largest in a single incident since clashes between Macedonian troops and Albanian rebels of the self-styled National Liberation Army (NLA) erupted in February and March. *AFP*

Blair to reform UK drinking laws

LONDON—Britain's ruling Labour party is to announce the most radical overhaul of drinking licensing laws for more than 40 years, the Press Association said Sunday, citing a government source.

Pubs, bars, restaurants and shops will be able to sell alcohol around the clock under plans to be announced this week, the government source is reported to have said.

It is likely to be one of the first acts of Prime Minister Tony Blair's second term in office, should Labour be returned to power in the anticipated June 7 general election.

Under the new measures pub closing times will be staggered on police advice to stop rowdy drinkers emptying into the streets all at once.

"We need to encourage a responsible attitude to drinking and end the culture of the last orders binge," the source said.

"Alongside these reforms there are obviously measures already going through at the moment to crack down on drunken boys who can't behave."

These are contained in the government's Crime and Disorder Bill, including on-the-spot fines and powers to ban drinking in certain areas or shut problem pubs.

Under the new plans, ministers will also call for more "family-friendly" pubs by easing restrictions on youngsters entering them, according to the source.

Although licensees can apply to sell alcohol 24 hours a day, seven days a week, local residents will be able to block their application if it will affect them. *AFP*

Transsexual MP to quit politics

WELLINGTON—New Zealand's Georgina Beyer, who made headlines when she became the world's first transsexual elected to a parliament, is set to quit politics, a report said Sunday.

The popular MP told a regional party conference Saturday she would leave at next year's general elections, the Sunday Star-Times said.

The 43-year-old former mayor of Carterton, near Wellington, said it was time to put her "brief and meteoric career" behind her to focus on her other interests.

These included developing links with her Maori tribe, pursuing her acting interests and using her international profile to become a goodwill ambassador for the gay, lesbian and transgender community, she said.

Beyer said that she had been treated with tolerance and acceptance by New Zealanders since being elected in November 1999.

"From a human rights perspective it's good for New Zealand that we can be liberal in these matters," she said. *AFP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Sierra Madre logged again for poll funds

REAL, Quezon—The resurgence of illegal logging in the northern part of Quezon along the Sierra Madre ranges has alarmed not only environmental groups operating in this area but also concerned citizens, saying proceeds from these activities could be used in the coming May 14 elections.

"There were reports that reached our office about this alarming resurgence of illegal logging . . . in the Sierra Madre ranges. We are presently conducting our own investigation," lawyer Asis Perez, head of the Tanggol-Kalikasan in Southern Tagalog, disclosed to the INQUIRER. He said it is not only their office that had noticed the renewed logging.

"Many concerned citizens residing in these areas have also registered their complaints and apprehension on the probable dire consequence not only to the environment but also to lives and property (of the logging resurgence)," he added. According to some residents here interviewed by the INQUIRER, the renewed illegal logging activities are a seasonal occurrence, especially during elections.

They said logging would not prosper without the "blessings and active participation" of local government officials or persons close to them and also of some unscrupulous personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) based here reported on April 20 the seizure along the Famy-Infanta road in Barangay Llavac, of a still undetermined volume of lumber that were loaded in three trucks bearing plate nos. PRE-522, TJZ-394 and PMV-567.

However, the DENR noted in the same report that their efforts to gather affidavits and other documentary evidence failed as residents "seem to be not interested" in filing a case against loggers.

"They are afraid of the people behind the failed shipment (of lumber)," said a resident.

The source also reported that during the observance of the Holy Week, at least seven 10-wheel trucks managed to ship out illegally cut lumber from the area.

It was made possible by using recycled "certificates of timber origin (CTO)" or "certificates of lumber origin (CLO)" from the 3,000 hectares of forestlands granted by the government to the Agta natives residing in the Sierra Madre ranges. But Leo Aromin, chief of the Cenro forest products law enforcement unit, said their office did not have any report of the incident from the six patrol bases along the route.

He, however, admitted to the INQUIRER that the information could be true because most of their personnel were on vacation during the period. But he denied the practice of using recycled CTOs or CLOs. He blamed New People's Army rebels operating in the area for the rise in illegal logging activities, saying the armed group was actually behind timber cutting in the mountain range.

A source disclosed that "a person closed" to Real Mayor Joel Diestro had allegedly cornered the lucrative business of hauling out illegally cut logs from the area by using recycled CTOs and CLOs.

The source said with the assistance of the shipper, even the logs that were cut by illegal loggers outside the area, "would be passed on as (having) originated from the indigenous peoples area."

"The shipper will be the one to distribute SOPs or grease money to several police and DENR detachments along the route until the shipment reaches the Bulacan or Antipolo area," said the informant.

Aromin confirmed to the INQUIRER the existing business tie-up between Madelyn Diestro, the wife of Mayor Diestro, and a certain Thelma Aumentado, the head of the Agta natives having legal logging rights in that portion of the Sierra Madre ranges. "And with the partnership, Mrs. Diestro usually bags the contract of hauling out any lumber or timber from the logging area of the natives. But as far as this office is concerned, she only hauls legally cut logs," he said. When interviewed by the INQUIRER, Mayor Diestro vehemently denied the accusation that someone from his family is involved in the illegal logging activities.

He also denied that the apprehended trucks belong to his family. "We have lots of trucks but we don't have any truck that is involved in illegal logging activities," he clai med. But he admitted that sometimes they also haul logs.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 36° Lo 24°	Baguio Hi 26° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao Hi 35° Lo 23°	Laoag Hi 35° Lo 25°
Clark Zone Hi 35° Lo 24°	Tagaytay Hi 34° Lo 23°	Legazpi Hi 33° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 33° Lo 25°
Bacolod Hi 34° Lo 25°	Roxas Hi 33° Lo 26°	Cebu Hi 32° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 31° Lo 24°	Zamboanga Hi 31° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
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Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
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Fax No. (032) 232-9938
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Bid to put Bicol under Comelec control rejected

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has rejected a call by the Bicol Regional Peace and Order Council (BRPOC) to place the whole region under Comelec control and deploy additional troopers and police personnel in the field.

Zacarias Zaragoza, Comelec Bicol director, told the INQUIRER that he had not recommended such a move to the Comelec central office in Manila because of the unnecessary disruptions it might cause in the normal conduct of the elections.

The BRPOC, chaired by second district congressional candidate and Legazpi City Mayor Imelda Roces, held on Tuesday an emergency meeting to propose the twin measures to avert further bloodshed.

Two mayoral and one provincial board member candidates were killed and three other candidates were abducted in the region last week.

Zaragoza said placing an area under Comelec control is like, or even worse than, declaring martial law.

The poll body takes over full control, supervision and disposition of all troopers of the armed forces and the police in a controlled area.

Under these circumstances, the Comelec may also restrain the movement and activities of candidates like prohibiting them from campaigning in places considered as hot spots, or where the military or the police are conducting peacekeeping operations.

Zaragoza said the BRPOC did not seem to understand the full implications of putting an area under Comelec control, which also requires a resolution from the Comelec en banc, a process that could take at least two weeks.

In 1998, the Comelec placed Masbate province under its control amid widespread violence and other election irregularities.

Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, Bicol regional police director, said among the six provinces in the region, Masbate remains the most problematic area.

Delfin said he would closely coordinate with the armed forces to increase police and military visibility and the installation of more checkpoints, specifically in areas considered as hot spots.

"We are resorting to these measures to avoid the proliferation of loose firearms and prevent further bloodshed," he said.

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BALIKATAN 2001

New war games stir protests

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—On the eve of the Balikatan 2001 military exercises of the Philippines and the United States, members of a militant group staged a rally here to call for the suspension of the war games.

The groups also urged the 1,700 American soldiers participating in the war games to leave the country during the election period.

"The timing of the war games is a cause for concern. These foreign military troops are guards brought out to ensure that the results of the May 14 elections will be consistent with US interests," Sonia Soto, chair of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, said in a statement.

On Jan. 21, some 200 US troopers participating in the Teak Piston 2001 military exercises with the Armed Forces of the Philippines immediately pulled out of the country due to the Edsa People Power II that ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Their aircraft and military equipment were flown back to US bases in Japan and Korea.

Balikatan and Teak Piston are among the series of annual military exercises between Filipino and American soldiers under the Visiting Forces Agreement ratified by the Senate in 1999.

Under the VFA, 34 large, medium and small-scale military exercises would be held in the Philippines until the end of 2001.

Soto also cited the Balikatan-related accidents in Cebu last year where two young scavengers were killed. The fatalities were identified as cousins Arnelo Gaviola, 13, and Rolly Navales, 17. A third scavenger, Jordan Villarmia, 10, was wounded.

The three found an unspent shell of a grenade launcher that exploded.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the Philippine Air Force's 1st Tactical Operations Wing based in Clark, told the INQUIRER that only the advanced party of the American soldiers had arrived here as of Thursday.

"Only the planners who comprise the advanced party have arrived. The event players or the bulk of the US troops will arrive on April 29," he said.

He said while the formal opening of the Balikatan 2001 was held at the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo Thursday, the actual exercises will start on Monday.

In September last year, former US Defense Secretary William Cohen visited the Philippines and proposed the formation of a special military unit that would be able to conduct operations against groups like the Abu Sayyaf.

He said the US government was willing to work with the Philippine military in forming and training the special unit.

Early this year, US military officials proposed the inclusion of Thailand, Singapore, Australia and Canada in the Balikatan 2001.

However, Philippine officials did not readily agree with the proposal for fear of a diplomatic problem with China and Vietnam if neighboring countries would take part in the military exercises.

The movements of Filipino and US troopers need approval by the Commission on Elections because Balikatan 2001 is held during the election period.

The KPD said some P53.5 million that would be spent in the country by US troopers does not justify their presence here during the election period.

The National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines, which is negotiating a peace deal with the Philippine government, is also seeking the abrogation of the VFA.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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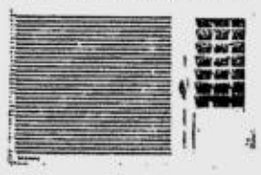
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Tañada urges gov't to take back SMC

LUCENA CITY--Quezon Rep. Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada, senatorial candidate of the People Power Coalition (PPC), is calling on the government to spare no effort in getting back majority of seats in the San Miguel Corp. (SMC) board. Tañada said the 27-percent sequestered shares bought with the coconut levy is already equivalent to five seats, but the government needs three more seats to be in the majority.

"(The) government must be able to wrest majority seats in the 15-member SMC board, since this will bring us closer to the goal of making the coco levy funds truly serve the interest of the real owners—the small coconut farmers—instead of generating income for dubious owners," Tañada said in a phone interview.

The corporate struggle currently going on at the SMC has pitted the government against the combined forces of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and former president Joseph Estrada's appointees.

The five Estrada appointees have so far refused to give up their seats.

The Office of the Solicitor General has filed a case before the Supreme Court for their ouster. It was also learned from Tañada that the Government Service Insurance System has filed its own case before the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court, demanding that it be given at least one seat in the SMC board. "I am glad that the GSIS has obtained enough proxy votes for it to get another board seat and a half, equivalent to its more than seven-percent shareholdings at the SMC," Tañada said.

"The Social Security System is also entitled to one seat for its five-percent shareholdings, getting us closer to the magic number," he added.

A coalition of peasant organizations in Quezon, mostly composed of coconut farmers, urged the more than 25 million Filipinos dependent on the coconut industry to vote as one bloc for national candidates that could serve as their partners in the struggle for the return of the coconut levy.

"This coming May 14 is the right time to collectively express our common aspiration that the coconut levy fund must be returned to us. And we need to have the commitment of these officials aspiring for national office," Rene Cerilla, president of the Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon or Ugma-Quezon, said here during a recent consultation with farmer leaders.

"But we should be wary, for we have had enough of false and empty promises and pretension from among our government officials. What we need now from these candidates is their declared commitment to be with us in our struggle to regain what really belongs to us." *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Solon warns Iligan folk on bet's 'hidden agenda'

ILIGAN CITY—Musician-businessman Ramon "RJ" Jacinto is banking on his anti-Estrada White Album to win the congressional elections here, but rivals are accusing him of using the House of Representatives as protection against creditors and numerous lawsuits.

As the election season nears the home stretch, Rep. Alipio Badelles (1st District, Lanao del Norte) has raised the issue of Jacinto's unpaid loans.

In a statement, Badelles said Jacinto owes the Philippine National Bank (PNB) more than P2 billion and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), P400 million.

He said even Malacañang officials are trying to distance themselves from Jacinto, who has also been charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with defying a government-appointed management committee, by continuing to divert funds from ailing First Women's Credit Corp. (FWCC).

He showed local journalists a report, which quoted presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao as saying that the government would spare no one, including administration allies, in its investigation of fraudulent financial transactions and unpaid obligations.

The musician's rivals are reportedly preparing stickers and flyers, which call on residents here to prevent Jacinto from using them "as collateral," an apparent reference to charges that banks had loaned the musician huge sums with little guarantee of repayment.

The Badelles camp has also reportedly translated into the vernacular portions of a 1998 Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) report, "Running for their lives," which reports in depth the troubles Jacinto is trying to evade.

Using the article, Jacinto's opponents have charged him with leaving unpaid debts in Hawaii and in Manila.

"If we are not careful, Iligan may become collateral for still another loan that will never be paid," Badelles' statement said.

Politics blamed for cops' transfer

LAOAG CITY—Barely three weeks before the May 14 elections, four police officers here were ordered reassigned outside the province for an indefinite period, raising suspicions that the policemen were being transferred because of partisan politics.

Ordered transferred to the Cordillera Administrative Region were SPO3 Oscar Felipe, chief of the investigation division, and SPO3 Merlene Ramos, chief of the intelligence division.

Also relieved and assigned to the Philippine National Police Regional Command in Tuguegarao, Cagayan were SPO4 Cesario Gabriel, chief of the traffic division, and PO3 Nelson Hernando.

All personnel were formerly detailed with the PNP in Laoag City.

The order, sent on April 21, did not mention why the policemen were reassigned. It was sent by the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame to the Ilocos Norte police.

Felipe denied allegations that he was being relieved because of his closeness with Mayor Roger Fariñas, who is running for a third term.

"In my 28 years of being with the service, I never allowed myself to be used by any politician," Felipe said. "But as a good soldier, we will follow the order."

He said certain groups might have interpreted his ties with Fariñas as personal because they would be often called to the mayor's office to discuss the city's peace and order situation.

"We have been handling sensitive cases that is why we would often be invited by the mayor," he said. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-mayor gunned down

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The former town mayor in Zamboanga-Sibugay was gunned down in Bonifacia, Misamis Occidental, on Thursday morning.

Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Govarrubias, head of the Southern Command's Civil Relations Group for Western Mindanao, identified the victim as Jessie Postero, 51, former mayor of Malangas town.

Covarrubias said Postero was inside a passenger vehicle from Ozamiz City en route to Pagadian City, when the man beside him pulled out a gun and shot him in the head.

Witnesses said the assailant disembarked from the vehicle and boarded a motorcycle that sped off toward Zamboanga del Sur.

"It seems that the killer was really prepared based on the fact that he had a getaway vehicle on standby," Covarrubias said. *Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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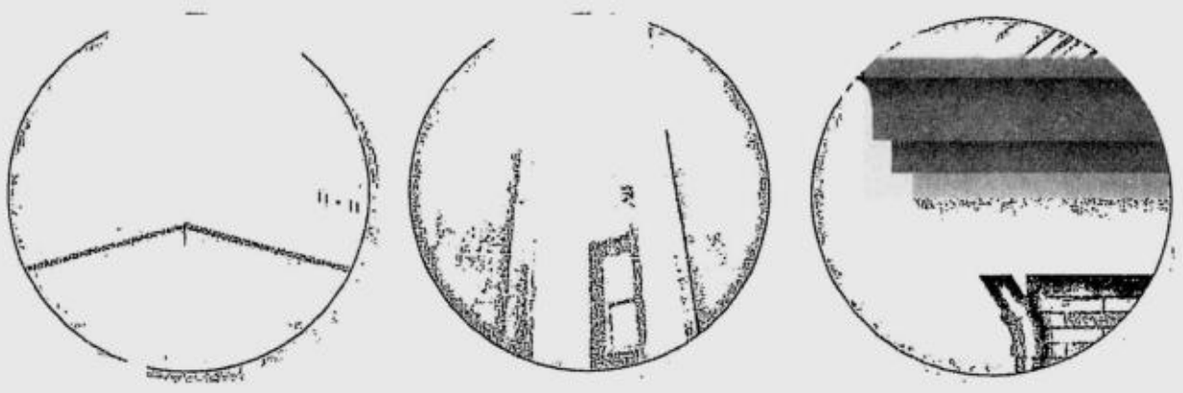

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Slain mayoral bet's kin reject NPA angle

BY ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

CANLAON CITY—The Cardenas family dismissed reports blaming the New Peoples' Army for Friday's ambush in Barangay Budlasan here, which claimed the lives of vice mayor and mayoral candidate Jose Cardenas, his sister and four others.

Wagner Cardenas, brother of the slain vice mayor and reelectionist councilor Jessica Cardenas, said the perpetrators of the ambush were hired killers who did not even know the area.

"They kept asking what barangay they were in (and) where the road would lead to. They even commandeered our jeep and left it when they reached a dead end," he said.

"Ondo (Jose) was mayor for 15 years. We've stayed here long but he was never touched by the NPA," Wagner said.

The others killed in the ambush were Hospicio Condes Jr., Canlaon's acting city administrator and campaign manager of the People Power Coalition in the city; Calvin Neri, the driver; and PPC supporters Telesforo Fajardo, Ricardo Oca and Julius Escala.

Those injured were Cardenas' vice mayoral candidate, Jimmy Clerigo; and supporters Nick Malones, Ramil Salazar, Helen Tano, Julius Dellonardo, Jose Lara and Aurelio Cagatin.

Wagner said they have requested the National Bureau of Investigation to investigate the ambush and identify the suspects.

Wagner said his family had no plans to seek revenge.

Wagner said he also asked Brig. Gen. Julius Javier, head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Visayas Command, and Supt. Avelino Razon, Central Visayas police chief, to check reports that military men from Negros Occidental were involved in the murders.

Wagner said his late brother had told him about plots to kill him and the names of two military men were mentioned as among those plotting to kill the vice mayor.

Vice Gov. Edgar Teves, the PPC chair in Negros Oriental, also said he believed the ambush was politically motivated.

"Unless the NPA will come out and openly state that they did it, we cannot blame anyone but his political opponents who had been after his head," Teves told the INQUIRER.

Julius Amador, the mayoral candidate of the Nationalist People's Coalition, denied any hand in the killing of his rival.

He said he did not know anything about the ambush and its perpetrators other than what has already been reported in the newspapers, including accounts about a man claiming to be an NPA spokesperson who called up a Bacolod radio station and claimed responsibility for the ambush.

"That's all I know about it and I have nothing to do with the incident whatsoever," Amador said.

Gov. George Arnaiz, the NPC provincial chair, appealed for calm amid rising tension in Canlaon.

"It's sad news. It shouldn't have happened but we must be calm because we cannot resolve this with hot tempers," he said.

He also cautioned against pinning the blame on anyone before an investigation is through.

Arnaiz said he favored the move to place Canlaon under the control of the Commission on Elections to ensure that the elections would push through without any more bloodshed.

Waves topple boat; 2 dead

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two persons, including a 5-year-old boy, died while another boy went missing when an unregistered pump boat capsized 7.8 nautical miles northeast off Carcar town, Cebu.

The pump boat, which was carrying 29 passengers including six children, overturned at around 4 a.m. Saturday, two hours before its scheduled arrival in Ubay Island, Tubigon town, Bohol.

The passengers left Barangay Tuyom, Carcar at about 11 p.m. Friday to attend the annual fiesta of Sitio Ubay Sunday.

The survivors claimed that big waves stirred by the passing of the MV Princess of the Caribbean caused the accident.

The fatalities were identified as Ciriaca Bungcal, 58 and Jonard Lapasaran, 5, both from Barangay Tuyom, 43 kilometers south of this capital city.

Rescuers have yet to find Patrocinio Taño III, 8, whose family operates the motorized banca. The boy was with his father who was a mechanic in the pump boat.

The boy's younger brother, Patrick, 6, was among the 26 passengers rescued. Patrick was brought to a hospital in Cebu City for a medical check-up.

In a report filed with the Coast Guard, Marinao Villarias, skipper of the MV Princess of the Caribbean, said his crewmembers rescued Bungcal and the other boat passengers.

Bungcal died at about 5 a.m. on board the ship after a heart attack.

Villarias the ship's crew failed to see the boat because it didn't have any navigational lights.

A survivor said only flashlights were used on the boat as navigational lights.

Cebu Coast Guard commander Godofredo Mandal said the boat's capacity was only 15 persons but it was loaded with 29 passengers, a cow, a goat and two sacks of rice.

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Defense of Palace starts

(From page A1)

scheduled for May 2, a day after the Labor Day mobilization of anti-Estrada groups that were behind People Power II.

"Let them try to leave Edsa and go to Malacañang. They won't get far," a military source at the Palace told the INQUIRER.

The gates of Malacañang clanged shut last night, and by 11 p.m., all roads to the Palace were barricaded. Media men were reportedly barred from Malacañang grounds.

By then, more than a thousand demonstrators, led by party-list group Akbayan, had already set up a makeshift stage at Mendiola, and speakers called on the small crowd to prevent "Edsa III" from happening.

Around 500 anti-riot police guarded the group.

Text messages spread like wildfire across the capital, urging supporters of People Power II to go to the Palace to defend it against the Estrada loyalists.

Erap's message

"Let us continue this fight," Estrada said in a taped message aired during an all-night protest by his followers at the Edsa Shrine, the same site where his opponents launched People Power II in January that ended his 31-month rule.

"I ask you to pursue your actions here at Edsa and in all corners of our country (*sa lahat ng dako ng ating bayan*)," he said in Filipino. "My conviction is strong that we shall win this battle."

But Estrada cautioned his followers against committing violent acts. "Let us continue to be calm. Let us never resort to violence," he said.

The source disclosed that Estrada gave his aides the order to negotiate with the Macapagal administration from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City where he was undergoing an executive checkup. He was brought to the facility on Saturday.

Last night, Dodi Limcaoco, deputy campaign manager of the People Power Coalition, started calling on political allies of President Macapagal to gather at Mendiola.

At 7:30 p.m., Camp Aguinaldo commander Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo ordered troops to go into formation in full battle dress and to close the gates.

Vigil

Around 300 priests and nuns from religious congregations in Metro Manila started arriving at 6 a.m. for a prayer vigil at Villa San Miguel.

After Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile reportedly called on pro-Estrada protesters to storm the gates of Villa San Miguel, Cardinal Sin had a dump truck positioned to block the gates of the villa.

Makati Vice Mayor Edu Manzano, who was planning to lead a Makati contingent to join the anti-Estrada forces at Mendiola, said the group would go "as a sign of support for the President."

Since he was taken into custody on Wednesday, Estrada followers have mounted a round-the-clock vigil at the Edsa Shrine. Their number swelled to about 150,000 at one point on Thursday.

Police estimated the crowd at 65,000 in the early hours yesterday. The figure shrank to a few thousand by mid-morning.

Before his arrest on April 25, Estrada repeatedly claimed that he had nothing to do with the mostly poor crowd that had gathered around his residence in Greenhills, San Juan, to prevent his arrest.

He had consistently claimed that they assembled voluntarily.

'Against our will'

In his taped message, Estrada said he and his co-accused son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy, were taken "against our will" to the VMMC for a medical checkup before their transfer to the detention facility especially built for them at Fort Sto. Domingo in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Among the Estradas' visitors yesterday were former first lady Luisa Ejercito, Jinggoy's wife Precy, Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero and Mayor Rey Roquero, secretary general of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, which Jinggoy used to head.

Ms Macapagal said on Saturday she had been monitoring the Edsa protests and warned "misguided elements" that security forces were firmly behind her.

She issued the warning to try to squelch newspaper reports that Estrada loyalists in the military might launch a coup. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

In Davao City, logistic and financial support from pro-Estrada politicians and traders helped sustain the protest vigil and rally at the Rizal Park the past three days.

About 50 Estrada supporters camped at the stage of the park yesterday, vowing not to leave until Ms Macapagal steps down and a snap election is held. The number reached 300 on Saturday night, but most of those who came went home shortly before midnight.

Some of the supporters said reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago had promised to shoulder their fare for their trip to Metro Manila to join the rally at the Edsa Shrine.

Marlon Sabijon, who camped at the park the past three days, said their leaders had told them that Santiago would also provide for their food and medicines.

Central Luzon

Estrada supporters in Central Luzon are leaving in small groups to attend the rally at Edsa, according to reports received by the regional police headquarters.

"Not really big," said Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Central Luzon police director, referring to streamer-bearing loyalists going to Edsa over the past three days.

Reports said they left in one or two small buses or jeeps, mostly from Nueva Ecija and Bulacan.

Cagayan Rep. Jack Enrile, son of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, dismissed reports that contingents from Cagayan were sent to the Edsa Shrine to attend the so-called "People Power of the Poor."

The young Enrile said their monitoring showed that no contingent from the province left to attend the pro-Estrada rally. But he said if there were Cagayan residents at the Edsa Shrine, they went there on their own.

There were unconfirmed reports that residents of Cagayan, the Enriles' bailiwick, were transported to the Edsa Shrine to join the pro-Estrada crowd.

The young Enrile urged Filipinos to give the Macapagal-Arroyo administration a chance to govern "for the sake of the people."

He said he was not supporting his father's call for civil disobedience to protest Estrada's detention.

Ricardo Puno, an opposition senatorial candidate, is not supporting an uprising, either.

"I am not joining these calls for rushing into the streets and creating disturbances, I am not even joining the call for civil disturbance," Puno said in Bacolod City Saturday night.

What ought to be done, according to Puno, is to allow the rule of law to take its own course, as prescribed by the Constitution "without showing partisanship."

Puno said he was also not in favor of the call for the removal of Ms Macapagal and for Estrada to be re-installed in Malacañang.

Puno said he disagreed with the Supreme Court's ruling that affirmed the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency but as a lawyer, he accepted the high tribunal's decision "because it is the law of the land."

"We cannot solve the political problems of this nation by going to Edsa much as we revere the tradition of Edsa," he said. *With reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Vincent Cabreza and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carla Gomez PDI Visayas Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Reuters*

AFP forms anti-coup task force

(From page A1)

The unit is composed of troops and hardware from the Army's Special Operations Command, Light Armor Brigade, Air Force, Navy and Marines.

AFP spokesperson Edilberto Adan declined for security reasons to reveal the number of tanks, armored vehicles, choppers and other hardware attached to the task force.

Without using the word coup, Adan said "the troops are on standby to defend the capital (Metro Manila)."

"Its primary duty is to support the Philippine National Police against civil disturbance and to protect life and property," he said.

He said other members of the task force were deployed at Fort Bonifacio and Villamor Air Base.

To underscore the need for alertness, at least three battalions of anti-riot policemen were deployed outside Camp Crame, which is across Edsa from Aguinaldo, shortly before dawn yesterday.

Military intelligence reports earlier said supporters of Estrada would launch an "attack" to rescue him.

The policemen, mostly from the Crowd Dispersal Management Group and the Special Action Force—some armed with fiberglass shields and truncheons and others, with Armalite rifles—trooped by twos from Gate 2 of Crame to Edsa.

They marched out of the camp at about 2:30 a.m. amid heckling and chanting of "Ibalik si Lacson . . . ibalik si Lacson!" and "walang dispersal . . . walang dispersal!" by astonished Estrada supporters who were in vehicles parked by the camp's Edsa gate.

Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief, is running for senator under the Puwersa ng Masa coalition allied with Estrada.

The vehicles were mostly passenger buses and jeepneys plastered with posters of candidates identified with Estrada that came from towns and provinces near Metro Manila.

Some of the vehicles were removed by their drivers after police officers asked them for security reasons.

Amid reports that the Estrada camp was courting the military, business and civic groups identified with Edsa II have started contributing food to the soldiers who are on alert to counter any coup attempts against the administration.

Adan said these groups were "friends of the government who are supporting the military which is on red alert."

"They are giving us food for the soldiers," Adan told a news briefing.

Among these groups are businessmen from Makati and members of Couples for Christ who played a key role at Edsa II. *With a report from Dave Veridiano*

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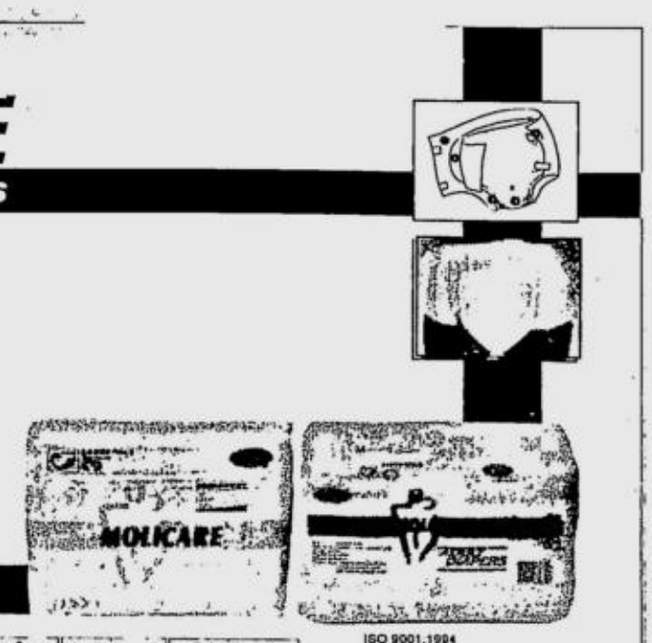

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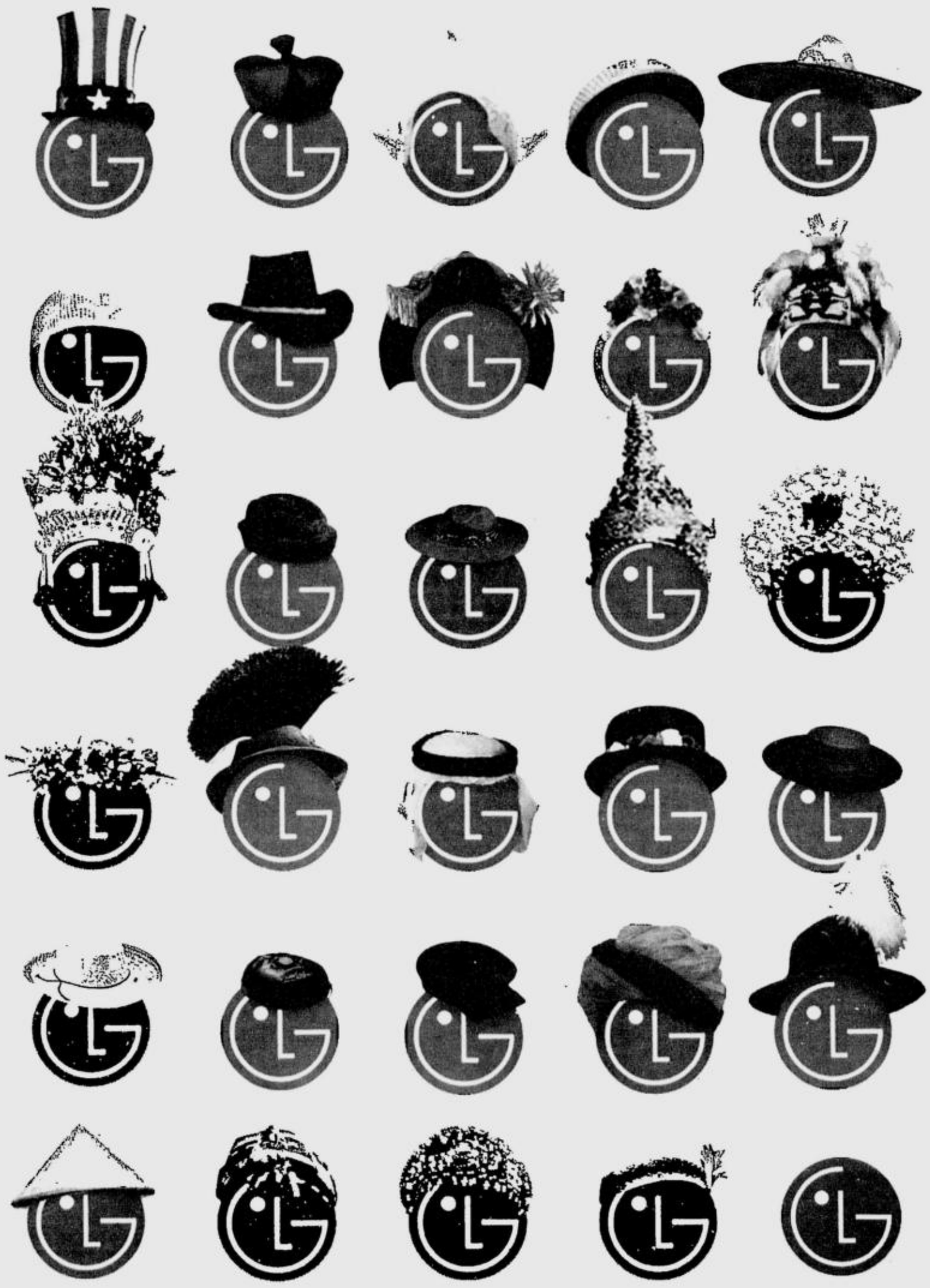

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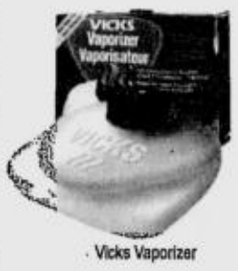
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Military takeover possible, says senior AFP official

(From page A1)

government, but he and other AFP officials reassured a jittery public that the military would remain loyal to the Macapagal administration.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed to use the legal powers of the state to go after those out to harm her, her family and her supporters, after her son Mikey received a letter containing five Armalite bullets.

After marathon meetings with Cabinet members, military and police generals, Ms Macapagal issued a statement to declare that "we will take the appropriate legal measures, and we will see to it that the safety of our children and our followers is simply non-negotiable."

The military is closely monitoring whether the numbers of Estrada demonstrators are growing, and has prepared contingency measures—including a possible takeover—in the event of an outbreak of violence provoked by escalating demonstrations.

Whether these prospects will materialize depends upon the size of the crowds and the developments within the week, senior intelligence sources said.

According to an intelligence report, the "present mobilization at the Edsa Shrine by forces loyal to ousted President Joseph Estrada was a well-planned activity designed to create destabilization of the Macapagal government."

It was hatched even before the arrest of Estrada, the report said.

"The critical mass that they will (need) is around 300,000 to 400,000 ralliers. Once they attain this number, the leaders of this group will start to instigate the crowd to proceed to Camp Crame and force the release of former President Estrada from detention.

"If the mob action succeeds, they will then go to Malacañang. This part is what they will call 'Mendiola 1.'"

Crowd size crucial

The intelligence sources said that the size of the crowd—whether diminishing or increasing—is "critical" to moves by pro-Estrada military officers to encourage defections.

The alleged cabalists include three senators, a retired senior general, a former Cabinet secretary and a provincial governor, according to the intelligence report.

Another military source disclosed that the effort to recruit military defectors is being led by two opposition senatorial candidates with strong connections within the military and police.

The claims were made as a reportedly furious Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, commanding general of the Philippine Air Force, vowed to remain loyal to "the duly constituted government" and denied an INQUIRER report linking him to an alleged junta plot discovered by military intelligence.

Watching El Shaddai, INC

The sources said that the danger for the Macapagal government was not yet over, even though she announced over the weekend that she had received pledges of support from the leaders of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police.

The military is watching particularly closely whether the religious organizations of Mike Velarde's El Shaddai and of Iglesia ni Cristo would be deployed to swell the size of the Edsa demonstrations.

The sources said that such a deployment would spur defections among the officer corps.

The intelligence report said that the alleged cabal did not disclose to the INC and El Shaddai that their plan was "to seize state power through insurrection."

They presented "Edsa III" as a legitimate exercise to express grievances.

The intelligence report further said that Estrada had no place in the plan. This cabal allegedly planning to hijack the Edsa protest action as a vehicle for launching a junta, said the report, "considered him (Estrada) as actually an albatross on their political necks."

Not likely to succeed

The intelligence sources said that the alleged cabal is not likely to succeed because the leaders involved in it do not have widespread support in the Armed Forces.

If ever the military would seize power, the cabal would come from a more reformist group of officers.

Yesterday, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes appealed to the people to trust the military and its loyalty to the government.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police are solidly behind this government," he repeated.

Reminded that he also said this before he threw his support behind the Macapagal camp during People Power II as then AFP chief of staff, Reyes replied: "Trust me."

Letter with bullets

The President said that she respects the right to air "diverse views and opinions" but will not hesitate to go after those with "evil designs."

The letter with the bullets was left in a restroom in a restaurant frequented by Ms Macapagal's son in Pampanga Saturday.

Addressed to Mikey, the letter said that his family has gone too far in "punishing our beloved Philippine President (Estrada). You don't fully control the times ... Edsa 3."

As a mother, the President said she feels "concerned for the safety of my son."

"It is the mother who is affected most whenever there is any threat to the very safety of her child," she said.

"Those whose overt acts manifest these evil designs must be warned," she said.

Security was beefed up at the Palace with the President opting to cancel an appointment in a Malacañang Park program.

But in a news briefing, Reyes said the government was "concerned" about these developments "but there is no need to be over or hyper-excited about this issue."

Defensor denies

The INQUIRER reported yesterday that military intelligence agents had discovered an alleged plot, led by Air Force chief Defensor, his sister Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and several key leaders of the opposition, to install a civilian-military junta and then call for a snap presidential election.

The Air Force general was called by Reyes in the morning and then by President Macapagal in the afternoon, apparently to explain his side, said Air Force spokesperson Col. Lino Lapinid.

At a news briefing at the Palace, Reyes said he had talked with Defensor yesterday and concluded that "I have no reason to doubt the loyalty of General Defensor."

The defense chief said Defensor remained "steadfast, loyal and he will be with us in thwarting any destabilization efforts."

"Even if she's my sister, we have different roles. It does not mean our political views are the same," Defensor said in an interview with radio station dzRH.

"I am a military officer. I am a professional soldier. I have a different role to play. I'm going to be good in my role also," he said.

Although he did not categorically state his support for Commander in Chief Macapagal, he repeatedly stressed his loyalty to the Constitution and his military superiors.

"I don't know who are spreading these rumors," Defensor said of the report, which quoted a senior military intelligence official.

'They're on their own'

The Air Force chief called the report seditious. "What if the people believe the report and join me?" Lapinid quoted him as saying.

When asked if Defensor had been asked by his sister to defect to the Estrada camp, Lapinid said: "I doubt it. They're on their own now."

Although they have different views, Defensor lauded his sister as a senator. "Like I said, we have different roles to play. She's a lawyer, she's a senator of the Republic and she's a good senator because she knows what she's talking about," he said.

He also said there was no need for a "loyalty check" because the military hierarchy is sure of its position in the present crisis.

Trust and confidence

Lapinid pointed out that "in fact, (Defensor) was with President Macapagal at the inaugural of the Kalayaan Lounge in Villamor Air Base yesterday (Saturday)."

"The presence of the President is reflective of the trust and confidence that she has in the CG (commanding general)," he said in a phone interview.

A smiling Defensor led Air Force officers and personnel in welcoming Ms Macapagal to the Saturday inauguration of the Bulwagang Kalayaan, a presidential lounge built for the use of the President and her guests.

"I think the AFP is completely behind the administration. How can they establish a junta without a military component?" Lapinid said.

The AFP deputy chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, also dashed reports that he was switching sides.

Previously identified with Estrada, Calimlim was the last of the military top brass to withdraw his support for Estrada last January.

"I'm pledging my loyalty to the legitimate administration and I'm in unison (sic) with the AFP," Calimlim said.

The Southern Command yesterday also issued a statement saying it "is 100 percent behind the administration and will continue to play its role as an anchor of stability and peace" in Mindanao.

Recruiting defectors

However, at a press briefing yesterday, AFP spokesperson Adan confirmed reports that there are efforts from the Estrada camp to persuade members of the military to break away from the chain of command.

"There have been attempts to recruit but these are also being reported (to the military leadership)," Adan said.

"They (Estrada supporters) are trying to influence and enlist the sympathy of the soldiers," Adan said.

Former Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig, spokesperson of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa, also confirmed that certain officers, particularly at the battalion level, had been approached.

"We've monitored these activities," Maligalig said. "So far, they haven't succeeded because there is no cause to fight for."

"The recruitment effort is being reported to us by our members who have remained in active military services," Maligalig said.

"There are no AFP units or elements that have gone against the chain of command," Adan said.

"One thing good here is that the officers and men know where they stand," he said, adding "it is heartening to know that the attempts are immediately being reported to us."

Maligalig said that the Guardians, a group comprised mainly of enlisted military personnel, "has been dissuaded by RAM against joining any faction against the government."

'Limits to liberty'

According to military intelligence reports, the size of the Edsa demonstration dwindled to more than 100,000 on Saturday evening from a peak of 230,000 on April 26.

But the military is concerned that pro-Estrada supporters are being ferried to Manila from Mindanao and Palawan, and bused from Rizal province, Olongapo City, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Laguna. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Dave Veridiano, Juliet Javellana; Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Country sitting on edge of civil war

(From page A1)

ments coming from opposition politicians who are fanning the unrest.

Crisis does not permit long stalemates. The present standoff is a flash point for violent scenarios.

First, opposition politicians and people who believe they can gain by toppling the Macapagal administration are cynically manipulating the poor by tapping their social grievances and turning them against the "rich" and the government.

Second, the Edsa II forces are mobilizing for mass demonstrations on Labor Day (May 1), sending to the streets hundreds of thousands of people in a show of numbers. Security forces must see to it that they don't cross paths.

This time, we are heading for a clash between Edsa II and the so-called Edsa III forces. If they come face to face, only one piece of rock thrown from either side could spark rioting.

Third, it takes very little inciting and provocation for the present Edsa crowd, which has been recruited from the urban underclasses (lumpen proletariat), to unleash mob rule or a rampage.

Fourth, although the government has the loyalty of most of the military and the police, the pro-Estrada officers are using the continuing demonstrations at Edsa to seek support for either the withdrawal of support of the chain of command from the Macapagal administration or the defection of soldiers to the pro-Estrada demonstrators, hoping that the presence of the soldiers would encourage larger demonstrations.

Very volatile

From armed forces intelligence assessments, the situation today is touch-and-go and very volatile. The government has made a headcount of its support among the service commanders and heads of key military units, and the result is that the government, at the moment, has maintained the loyalty of most of the armed forces. But if the demonstrations swell, dissident officers could use these to start defections.

Organizers of the Edsa rally had planned a march to Malacañang on Saturday evening, if they had by that time a "critical mass" to start a siege of the Palace and force the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The adventurist plan was driven by overconfidence and overestimation by the leaders of the unrest of their strength and capacity to mobilize the people.

The reasons why the march did not go ahead were:

- Mike Velarde wavered in committing his mass following to join the pro-Estrada forces at Edsa.
- Crowd anger was defused by the move to transfer Estrada to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, where he had more comfortable quarters for medical examination.
- The government recovered from its initial shock (it did not expect the kind of mass backlash from the arrest of Estrada), gained time to consolidate its support from the military and police, and signaled its readiness to get tough if the pro-Estrada forces go into reckless actions like storming the Palace.

Velarde

Bro. Mike Velarde of El Shaddai was playing a double and evasive game. He tried to blackmail the administration to quash his plunder case as a condition for not giving the signal for El Shaddai's mass following to join the protests. Velarde was using his numbers as a bargaining leverage for his own survival.

Members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), together with some followers of El Shaddai, have formed the bulk of the Edsa crowd. The assembly is composed mostly of die-hard Estrada loyalists, the poor recruited from urban blight and the provinces, and poor people with genuine social grievances. It would be a mistake to reduce the crowd to a mob for hire.

The events to watch whether the standoff is being broken in favor of the government are the size of the crowd on Edsa and the ability of the government to hold its support from the armed forces.

The Edsa demonstration is caught in contradictions about its goals and issues. These contradictions show that the pro-Estrada movement is chaotic and has no centralized leadership, although a number of Estrada administration officials are coordinating logistics—the feeding of the people and paying recruits from the slum areas and the provinces.

Edsa demands

The demands at Edsa range from the extreme of seeking the resignation of Ms Macapagal and the restoration of Estrada and calls for the formation of a civil-military junta to hold snap elections in which Estrada would not run and former National Police Chief Panfilo Lacson would stand for President, to the more short-term concession of putting Estrada under house arrest.

The last condition appeared to have been met with the transfer of Estrada to a hospital and to the preparation of comfortable quarters at the PNP center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna—which is equivalent to house arrest.

The INC has demanded house arrest, but it is not certain that it would stop giving support to the Edsa protests. It has a deep long-running conflict with the majority Roman Catholic Church, and its muscular political activism at Edsa I and Edsa II. Moreover, the INC has been left out in the cold by the changeover to Macapagal. It has no one in a position of power and influence in the Macapagal administration.

Thus, both Velarde and the INC—both losers in the changeover—are blackmailing the Macapagal administration to win concessions, and the protests sparked by the arrest of Estrada have given them the opportunity to play their cards, holding Macapagal hostage

Velarde did not want Estrada transferred to Sta. Rosa. The reason is that it is hard to maintain mass demonstrations there, where such show of numbers has very little political impact. Velarde is using his following as a weapon to extricate himself from serious trouble posed by the plunder case filed against him. For Velarde, it is a fight for survival.

Military role

The military has warned Velarde that he is creating opportunities for a military takeover if the demonstrations, swelled by El Shaddai followers, get out of hand and turn violent, forcing the military to step in to restore order. In a military takeover, neither Velarde nor opposition senatorial politicians demanding the restoration of Estrada, could gain. The military would, the next time around, take power itself if the Macapagal administration proves unable to govern with authority.

It would not give it back to Estrada or hand it to Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan or Panfilo Lacson.

The most likely thing to happen if the rallies become turbulent and pro-Estrada forces march to the Palace is that the military will rally behind the government and Macapagal makes a crackdown on mutinous members of the military supporting secessionists and arrest them.

If rioting erupts and becomes unmanageable, the President can ask for emergency powers to restore order.

The military, institutionally, is a professional organization that shifts allegiance only after profound and powerful causes for defection present themselves, as in the defections from strongman Ferdinand Marcos and Estrada. So, it is unrealistic for the firebrands in the opposition that they could get the military to defect and restore a corrupt regime, which they and the rest of the state institutions rejected on Jan. 20.

The poor

The demand for the Estrada restoration is a dead end. The politician agitators come from the elite and the rich. They use the class conflict line to rabble-rouse the poor against the government. The poor are being incited also to support demands to give privileges and comfort to Estrada—or house arrest.

Estrada is betraying his real self. He is from the elite and his ways are of the elite. He wants comfort and a sumptuous life in detention not available to the poor. He wants privilege, which the rest of us cannot enjoy. This shows how the poor are being cynically exploited by their elite spokesperson to accept the notion that some are above the law.

The poor have always been losers in Philippine society. They have legitimate grievances. But they were also losers in the Estrada pseudo pro-poor government. If Estrada were restored, there is no reason to expect they will be winners. Now they are being used as shock absorbers and cannon fodder for causes that will not benefit them.

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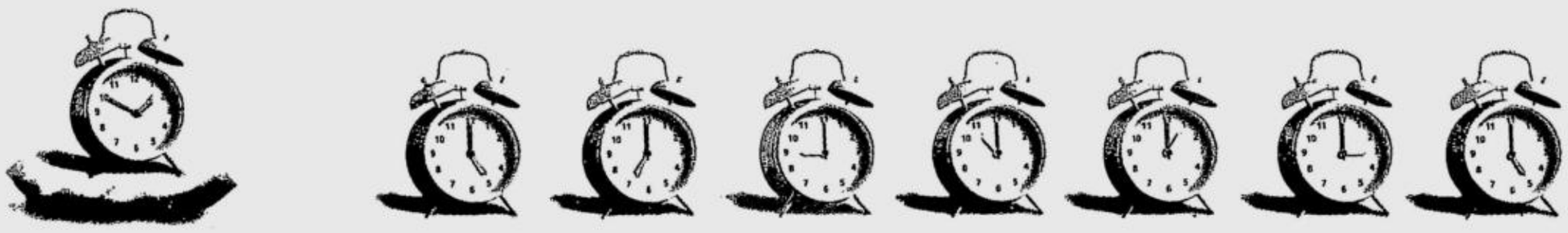

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Rear Defogger	✓	-	-	-
SRP	P439,000	P489,000	P518,000	P518,000

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Engine Displacement/ Type	1,493 cc/EFI 16-valve DOHC	1,493 cc/EFI 16-valve SOHC	1,468 cc/ carbureted 12-valve SOHC
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Suspension type Front	Double Wishbone/ coil spring	Double Wishbone/ torsion bar	Double Wishbone/ torsion bar
Rear	5-link/coil spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring
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Maximum Output (PS @ rpm)	135 @ 3,800	87 @ 4,000	100 @ 3,800
Overall length (mm)	4,930	4,830	4,695
Overall width (mm)	1,895	1,690	1,820
Wheelbase (mm)	2,910	2,590	2,810
Transmission	5 MT/4 AT	5 MT	5 MT/4 AT
Suspension Type Front Coil	✓	-	-
Rear Coil	✓	✓	✓
ABS	✓	-	-
Driver-side airbag	✓	-	-
SRP	P859,000 MT P909,000 AT	P1,080,000	P938,000 MT P978,000 AT

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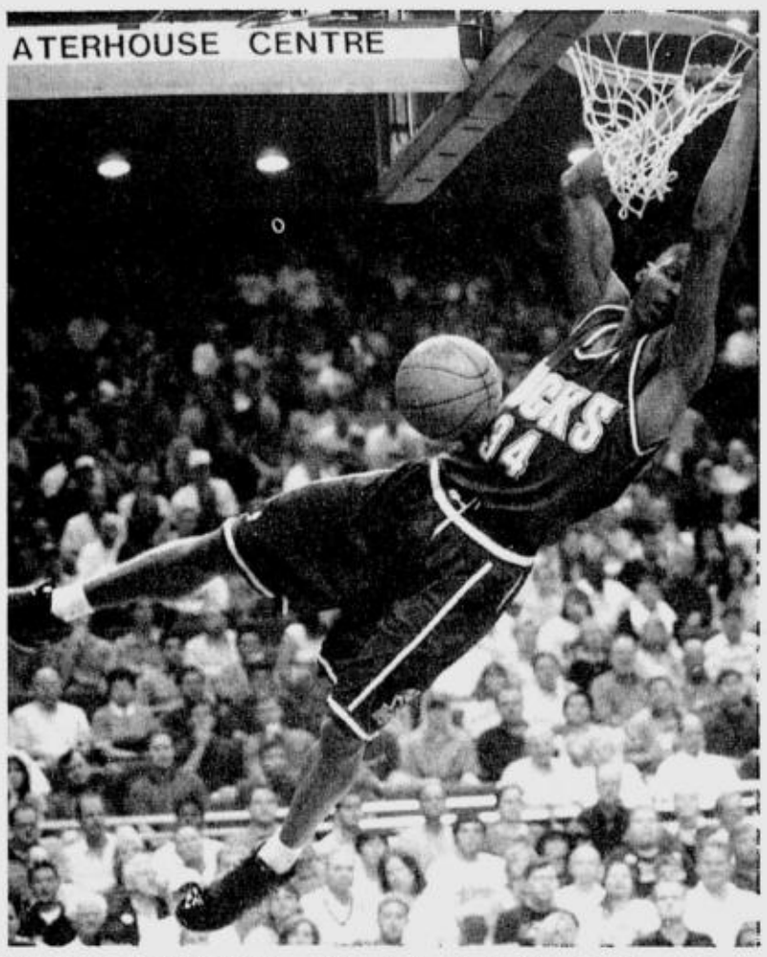

MILWAUKEE BUCKS' Ray Allen dunks the ball against the Orlando Magic in Orlando, Saturday. The Magic won, 121-116. AP

IVERSON KEY PLAYER

76ers trip Pacers, lead 2-1

INDIANAPOLIS—Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers silenced the hecklers by playing better basketball.

Iverson scored 32 points and the 76ers got their final 10 points on free throws to beat the Indiana Pacers 92-87 on Saturday.

Philadelphia took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five Eastern Conference first-round series, with Game 4 in Indianapolis on Wednesday night.

The Pacers, the defending conference champions, erased a 15-point third-quarter lead and tied it 82-82 with less than three minutes to go on a 3-pointer by Reggie Miller, who led all scorers with 35 points.

The Pacers had a chance to take the lead after George Lynch missed two free throws. But Miller missed a shot and Al Harrington fouled Dikembe Mutombo, whose two free throws started the 76ers' parade to the foul line.

Iverson had three free throws, Aaron McKie and Tyrone Hill had two apiece and Eric Snow one as the Pacers repeatedly fouled in the closing seconds.

Mavericks 94, Jazz 91

In Dallas, Steve Nash hit a go-ahead turnaround jumper with 22.7 seconds left and Michael Finley then added two free throws as Dallas pulled out a 94-91 win over the Utah Jazz to avoid a first-round sweep.

Playing their first home playoff game in 11 years, the Mavericks won in the postseason for the first time since June 2, 1988.

Timberwolves 93, Spurs 84

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett scored 22 points and Terrell Brandon added 21 as the Minnesota Timberwolves got Tim Duncan in foul trouble and beat the San Antonio Spurs, 93-84, Saturday to extend their playoff series.

Duncan had 15 points and 10 rebounds in 29 minutes, sitting out a chunk of the fourth quarter with five fouls.

Magic 121, Bucks 116, OT

In Orlando, Florida, Tracy McGrady had 42 points—21 in the fourth quarter and overtime—as Orlando finally beat Milwaukee to to stay alive in the playoff series.

McGrady, honored as the NBA's Most Improved Player earlier Saturday, tied Orlando's playoff scoring record and added 10 assists and eight rebounds. *AP*

Sta. Elena bags award as top club

FOR THE second straight time, Sta. Elena was adjudged as the INQUIRER Golf Monthly's Club of the Year.

Sta. Elena bested 1998 winner Manila Southwoods and three other finalists for the coveted plum given annually by the IGM and GG&A Club Shares to the club that maintains excellence in its facilities, member relations, service and management.

Riviera, Alabang and Wack Wack were the other finalists of the year's Club of the Year search which was backed by PLDT myDSL as major sponsor. It was also supported by Golden Life Sports Cup and Trophies through Raffy Antonio, Premier Wine & Spirits Inc., The Plaza and Wack Wack.

Businessman Rico Tantoco received the COY award for Sta. Elena from MMDA chair Ben Abalos, INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and GG&A Club Shares managing director Eduardo Galvez during the annual awards night held at the grand ballroom of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong recently.

The search was conducted through a series of random surveys which made up 30 percent of the process. The finalists were then screened by a panel of 12 judges composed of former president Fidel V. Ramos, Poch Borromeo, Dennis Valdes, Isa Velayo, Rick Gibson, Mary Grace Estuesta, Andy Dumlao, Manny Chan, Nick Tuason, Buddy Resurreccion, Butch Brodett and Vince Villafuerte.

Sta. Elena, Southwoods and Alabang also shared the special awards introduced for the first time.

Sta. Elena won the best in Food and Beverage category and split the award for the best Caddie Force with Alabang while Southwoods won awards for excellence in services and facilities as well as locker room maintenance.

Key personalities of the top golf clubs in Metro Manila that included Alabang chair Joey Laurel, Riviera president Danny Pizarro, Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines chair Romy Laig as well as general managers, golf directors, equipment distributors attended the affair. Ma. Isabel Ongpin was the guest of honor. *Jong Arcano*

Frankie lands at 15th spot

FILIPINO ace Frankie Miñoza barely missed another Top 10 showing after a late bogey, gaining a share of 15th place after a closing two-under-par 68 yesterday in the Chunichi Crowns tournament at the Wago Golf Club in Japan.

Darren Clarke of Ireland fired a 67 for a 267 aggregate and a four-stroke win over local bets Keiichiro Fukabori and Shinichi Yokota.

In Austin, Texas, Dorothy Joy Delasin moved up to a share of 15th spot going into the final round of the Kathy Ireland Championship at the Onion Creek Club. *Jong Arcano*

Aguilar sweeps series

PUERTO Princesa City—Glen Aguilar of Caltex-KTM swept both the pro open and pro 125 categories in another overpowering performance, even as Carl Poculan of Shell-Yamaha duplicated the feat in the production categories in the National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of Yamaha before a big weekend crowd here.

Aguilar defeated multi-titled Jovie Saulog in the pro open and former titlist Ernie Leongson in the pro 125 to pull away in the overall standings in this annual series organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and supported by MAD (Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga) and Kids Foundation.

Aguilar held off several strong rallies by Leongson and Saulog to the delight of a crowd of 15,000, which included Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn and son Clink.

Overall, Aguilar has 117 points against 96 of Leongson in the pro open category. Another Shell-Yamaha rider, Jing Leongson, is third with 80 points.

In the pro 125, Aguilar has 120 points against Leongson's 85 points and Popeye Rubi's 73 points.

Poculan beat Johnny Garcia and Andot Rubi in the open production 125 and Carlo Leongson and Juno Villena in the open 125. Kenneth San Andres topped the mini class.

SPORTSWATCH

It's either Lewis or Tyson for Rahman

NEW YORK—Hasim Rahman, the newly crowned heavyweight champion, probably will make his first title defense against Lennox Lewis or Mike Tyson. Cedric Kushner, promoter for the fighter from Baltimore, said Saturday that it's 50-50 on which of the two former champions it will be — he can deal with HBO and Lewis or Showtime and Tyson. *AP*

Sweet Pea quits after injury forces loss

STATELINE, Nevada—Pernell Whitaker says there will be no more comebacks after a shoulder injury ended his return to the ring in his fight against Carlos Bojorquez. "I am done," the six-time champion and Olympic gold medalist said from a hospital emergency room after Friday's fourth-round TKO. *AP*

Schumacher takes pole in Grand Prix

BARCELONA, Spain—Ferrari's Michael Schumacher took full advantage of Formula One's new electronic traction control to claim the pole for Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix. Mika Hakkinen of McLaren-Mercedes switched his off to take the No. 2 spot. McLaren teammate David Coulthard took third in Saturday qualifying and didn't know if the new high-tech electronic gizmos were completely on or off. *AP*

US BASEBALL RESULTS

American League—Kansas City 8, Boston 2; Tampa Bay 7, Detroit 3; NY Yankees 7, Oakland 6; Anaheim 4, Toronto 1; Seattle 8, Chi White Sox 5; Cleveland 7, Texas 3; Baltimore 5, Minnesota 2.

National League—Milwaukee 8, Montreal 4; NY Mets 6, St Louis 5 (11 innings); Houston 6, Florida 4; Cincinnati 9, Colorado 4; San Francisco 5, Chicago Cubs 0; Atlanta 3, Arizona 1; San Diego 8, Pittsburgh 1; Los Angeles 7, Philadelphia 6. *AFP*

Mapua tests Las Piñas College in Padilla Cup

Games Today
8:45 a.m. Opening Ceremonies
9:00 a.m. Lyceum vs Rizal Technological U
10:30 a.m. Mapua vs Las Piñas
12 noon NCB vs PMI

MAPUA Institute of Technology tests its mettle against Las Piñas College in the featured match of the first Senator Ambrosio Padilla Memorial Basketball starting today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Cardinals play the LPC eagers at 10:30 a.m. after the 9 a.m. opener between Lyceum and Rizal Technological College and before the 12 noon encounter between National College of Business and Arts and Philippine Maritime Institute.

Lawyer Alexander Padilla, son of the late Senator-Olympian who served as the first-ever president of the Basketball association of the Philippines (BAP), will make the ceremonial toss, to be assisted by BAP president Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal and EVP lawyer Bonifacio Olentajan.

The late Padilla who was a member of the Philippine basketball team to the 1936 Berlin Olympics, is also one of the founding fathers of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC).

"We have decided to put up this tournament in honor of the late senator because he is a genuine sports hero and serves as a good example for the youth," said Literal who added that the tournament is not limited to collegiate men's basketball players.

Also taking part are University of Sto. Tomas, University of Manila, University of the East, Letran, Emilio Aguinaldo College, University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, San Beda, San Sebastian, St. Benilde, Philippine School of Business Administration, Jose Rizal U, National U and Angeles University Foundation.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit #0439 series of 2001

2-LENGTH WIN

Wind Blown rips Silver Story again

By Edwin Villanueva

JAVIER

WHO'S the real horse of the year in 2000?

Wind Blown gave non-believers the answer in the form of shaming Silver Story yesterday in the First Gentleman Cup race before a roaring crowd at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The massive colt made Silver Story do the chasing throughout the 2,000-meter race and convincingly beat the grey galloper chosen as last year's best horse by two lengths.

"*Napatunayan niya na siya talaga ang* Horse of the Year (He's proven that he is the real Horse of the Year)," said sportsman-businessman Sandy Javier, Wind Blown's breeder and former owner.

"He (Wind Blown) is the epitome of breeding at its best," added Javier, under whose care the Hazm-Wind in My Hair colt achieved most of his major achievements.

Wind Blown covered the race which turned out into a two-horse affair between him and Silver Story in 2:10.4 (26-24-25-26.4-29) and captured the P1 million winner's purse.

"He struggled a bit with the weight (59 kilos) but he's simply too much for the field," said star jockey Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr.

Silver Story, ridden by Jonathan Hernandez, settled for P350,000 as he tasted his second loss to Wind Blown. Gold Edition came in third followed by Greely Good, Streets of Gold, Hammerhead and Materiales Fuertes. High Roller and Sweet Lover were scratched.

First Gentleman and honoree Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo awarded the Silver Cup to Wind Blown's new connections.

Bong drops bid

BONG Villamayor could only draw with fellow GM Dao Thien Hai yesterday, dashing the Filipino's championship bid in the Asian 3.2 Zonals at the Grand Boulevard Hotel in Manila.

With only 5 points to show after the penultimate eighth round, Villamayor must beat pacesetter GM Nguyen Anh Dung (6.5 points) today and then hope that Dao (6 points) and top seed Utut Adianto (5.5) drop theirs to force a playoff for the second slot in the World Chess Championship.

The Hungary-trained Dao was one pawn up, but Villamayor had more active pieces when they agreed to split the point after 76 moves of a Slav Defense.

Nguyen surged ahead with a 35-move victory over Yves Ranola in a King's Indian Defense.

Indon IM caught up with Villamayor by humbling Filipino GM Joey Antonio in 50 moves of a Caro-Kann.

Roy Luarca

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WATCH Dr. Andrew Pineda's live interview in Damayan on PTV 4, Monday April 30, 2001, 1:30 P.M.

Ploy

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ANXIOUS readers are not buying the latest pitch of the stone-broke Philippine Sports Commission to increase the allowance of national athletes, saying it is only a ploy to repair its tarnished image and appease the athletes from staging another rally tentatively set after the May 14 elections.

"Why do they have to increase the athletes' allowance only now? They asked. "They could have done this a long time ago."

Why did it happen then? Could it be because PSC officials spend the money instead on their frequent travels abroad and for expensive infrastructure projects and renovations which were not very necessary ? For clearly, funds intended for the athletes and sports development were not spent wisely.

As a consequence—this is on record—even the basic needs of the poor athletes such as training equipment, decent quarters, food and vitamins for regional and international competitions were neglected, one big reason why Philippine sports continue to deteriorate. A good proof is the country's declining performance in the lesser-ranked Southeast Asian Games.

In 1991 at the SEA Games hosted by Manila, the Philippines wound up an awe-inspiring second. The country then finished third in Singapore in 1993 and in Thailand in 1995, dropping to fourth in Indonesia in 1997, before landing a dismal fifth in Brunei in 1999.

Because of this alarming decline, prospects are bleak for the bloated Philippine delegation to the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur this September for the simple reason that local athletes are ill-trained and ill-equipped.

Early January, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit had predicted at least a fourth place finish, saying, "I should say that the best would be a fourth place finish and the worst is probably sixth. Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam are fielding formidable teams and if Singapore would send a very strong delegation, we could even be bumped off to sixth."

PSC chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason said P50 million has been earmarked for the Philippine Delegation to the SEA Games, with P30 million of that to be spent for the actual competition and the remaining P20 million of that to be spent for the actual competition and the remaining P20 million to be used to buy sports equipment. He also said that national athletes will be receiving a P1,000 increase in their monthly allowances starting in May.

Makati bidding to host SEAG

MAKATI City, the country's chief financial district, will bid for the hosting of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Councilor Mark Joseph of the city's first district bared the idea after the Philippine Olympic Committee started laying the groundwork for the country's hosting early this month.

"The presence of hotels, malls and other business establishments in Makati will make the area a viable venue for the SEA Games hosting," said Joseph, swimming coach of the RP team during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

He said once the POC sets the criteria for the biennial meet's bidding, Makati City would be the first to offer its services and satisfy the requirements for the SEA Games' successful staging.

And the venue of the games, he said, would be in Fort Bonifacio, where vast tracks of land could accommodate the construction of a world-class track and field oval.

Aside from the setting up of a track and field oval, Joseph also hatched the idea of erecting a village inside Fort Bonifacio that will house the athletes, similar to the Olympic village in the Olympic Games.

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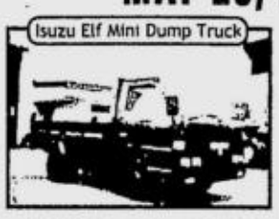
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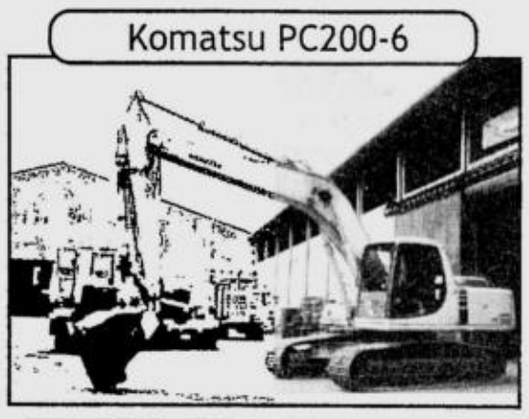
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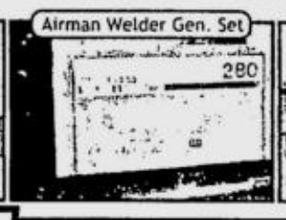
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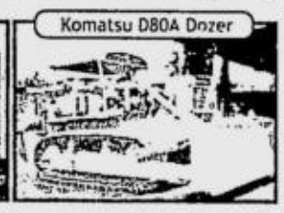
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Beermen near . . .

(From page A24)

I'm sure Pop won't give up that fast," said SMB coach Jong Uichico, whose wards are looking for a third straight conference championship.

"From what happened tonight, we still have a lot to adjust," he added, explaining their proneness to get flustered by Pop Cola's perky game.

The Beermen committed more errors than the Panthers (18-13), who also had more fastbreak points (10-6) and seconds chance points (12-5).

But luckily for San Miguel, it carried itself well into the endgame unlike Pop veterans Nelson Asaytono, ho took two ill-advised shots while Abarrientos hesitated to take one.

In the second game, Shell Velocity averted a shutout with a 113-87 rout of Barangay Ginebra in their separate semis series. The Gins still lead, 2-1.

SMB 82–Ildefonso 20, Seigle 19, Racela 16, Abuda 9, Victoria 7, Belasco 4, Duat 4, Peña 3.

POP 75–Julnio 19, Abarrientos 18, Hatfield 17, Ballesteros 7, Asaytono 6, Morano 4, Antonio 3, Lastimosa 1, Bolado 0.

Quarters: 20-25, 43-41, 59-55, 82-75.

Araneta derby

QUALITY fights mark the NCA 7-Cock Derby today (Monday) at the Araneta Coliseum, kicking off with the three-cock elimination round at 5 p.m. and ending with the four-cock finals on Wednesday, May 2.

The explosive derby, the 11th leg of a 15-leg series under the aegis of the National Cockers Association, is hosted by top cocker-breeders Lito Orillaza, Raul Molintas, Eugene Martin, Chito Bersamin, William Co and Dicky Lim.

Among those seeing action are past NCA champions Jessie Viceo (San Rafael), Alan Tan and Patrick Puno (Capital II), Big Dome owner Nene Araneta (Thunderbird-Firefly IV), Gerry Fevidal (Geran), Ruel Ricafort and E. Santos (RT-114 Geran Mapalad) and Pampanga's Eric Yu (New Guagua Coliseum).

BEACH FOOTBALL
Guest Brazilian player Francisco Sebok displays his wares during the final of the Visayas-Mindanao beach football tournament of the Rexona Ultimate Challenge Series in Boracay. Beach football action resumes May 5 and 6 with the staging of the Luzon Cup in Subic, Olongapo.

It's Cebu

THE CEBU Gems subdued the Negros Slashers, 84-81, last night to rule the MBA Cebuana-Lhuillier Friendship Games at the New Cebu City Coliseum. Earlier, LBC Batangas Blades dumped Andok's San Juan Knights, 86-77, for third place.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: This Week in the NBA at 11:30 a.m. on CNN

NBA Playoffs, First Round at 12 noon on RPN 9 (r – 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13)

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day - Spanish Grand Prix at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

F1 - Spanish Grand Prix at 11:45 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

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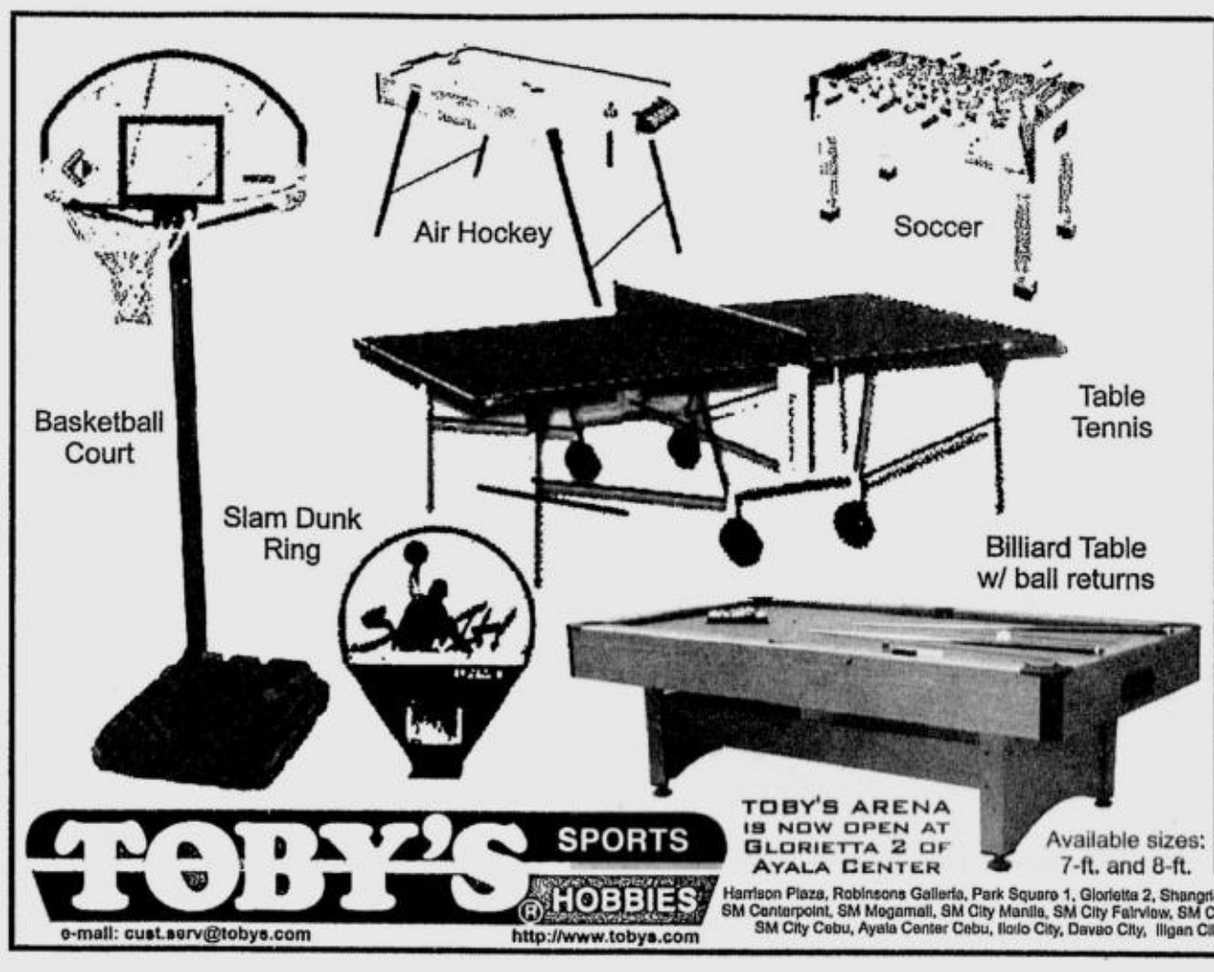

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■ 76ers trip Pacers, seize 2-1 lead A22
■ Sta. Elena named top club anew A22

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Salud Forum guest

BOXING and marathon take centerstage tomorrow when the PSA Forum resumes its weekly session at the Holiday Inn Manila. Prominent lawyer and sportsman Rudy Salud along with his ward, WBC international super flyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa head the guest list.

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Beermen near finals

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

OLSEN Racela hit a three-pointer with less than a minute left as San Miguel Beer edged Pop Cola, 82-75, last night and closed in to the PBA All-Filipino Cup finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Racela's long trey, done amid the outstretched hands of Johnny Abarrientos, epitomized the Beermen's unruffled endgame stand against the Panthers' relentless hustle.

"I was thinking of just throwing the ball to the hoop instead of driving and committing a turnover," said Racela of his high-arched jumper that gave SMB a 78-73 lead.

Added Racela: "The ball took so long to go in, I even had time to say a prayer."

Obviously, the heavens answered quickly because the Panthers lost their bite from there, giving SMB a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five semifinal series — a win short of making its first AFC Final stint in three years.

Another win on Wednesday would give the Beermen a crack at the only title missing in their collection for the past two years, having won the Commissioner's and Governors Cup since 1999.

But it wasn't that easy for the Beermen, who countered the Panthers' tenacity with sheer shooting accuracy—5-of-11 from the arc and 30-of-56 from the floor.

"We need to sustain our intensity because

BEERMEN/ A23

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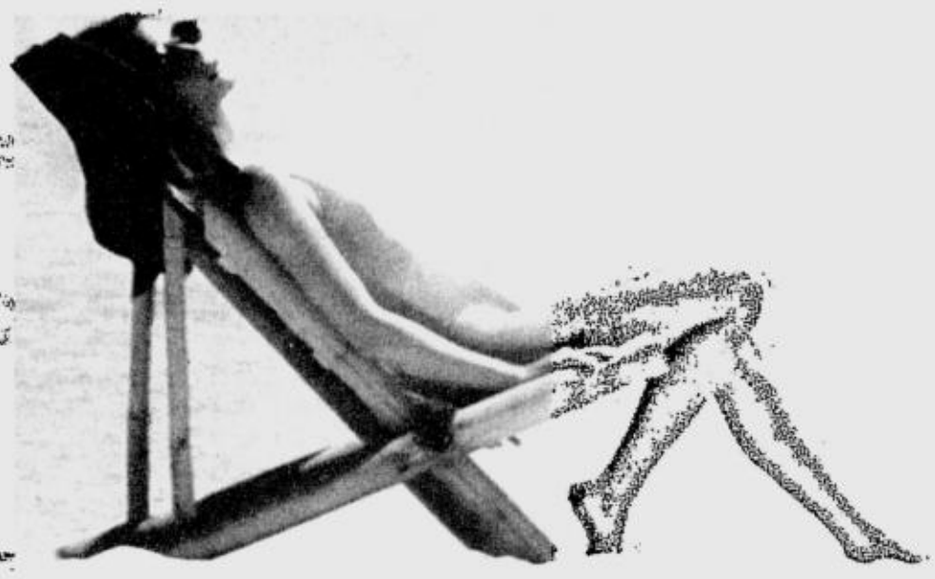

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Rollerblade skateboard Bmx 9-13 May 2001
GENERATION X GAMES
Rollerblading Mountainbike
Exceed your Limits
MIP

QC policeman shot dead over Cavite rally traffic jam

BY STELLA O. GONZALES

A QUEZON City policeman was shot dead in Cavite by an alleged supporter of the incumbent Bacoor town mayor when the lawman protested the traffic jam caused by a political rally of the mayor.

SPO2 Leo Oballo, 36, a resident of 6 Tinagaan St., Barrio San Jose, Quezon City who was assigned to the mobile patrol division of the Central Police District, was shot twice in the back of the head.

The suspect has not been identified, but witnesses claimed he was a supporter of Bacoor Mayor Jessie Castillo, according to a report by Cavite police chief Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. to the Philippine National Police Southern Tagalog regional office.

The shooting happened at 11 p.m. Friday in Barangay Ligas 2, Bacoor, the police report said.

Police investigation showed that Oballo was driving a Nissan Sentra car and was going toward Zapote when he was caught in traffic caused by the mayor's political rally. Oballo started blowing his horn, witnesses told investigators.

One of the mayor's men who was directing traffic confronted the policeman. After a brief exchange of angry words, the unidentified man pulled out a gun and shot Oballo as the policeman was about to drive away in his car, witnesses said.

Oballo was pronounced dead on arrival at a nearby clinic. The gunman fled.

Police are withholding the identity of the witnesses for security reasons.

Castillo belongs to the Magdalo party. His seat is being contested by movie star Lani Mercado, wife of reelectionist Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. Mercado is being fielded by the administration.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

EARTH BEAUTY

Early favorite Carlene A. Aguilar, 19, wins the first Miss Philippines 2001 crown Saturday night in the grand finals held at the UP Theater in Quezon City. She will represent the country in the first Miss Earth Beauty Contest.

Wazzzzup?

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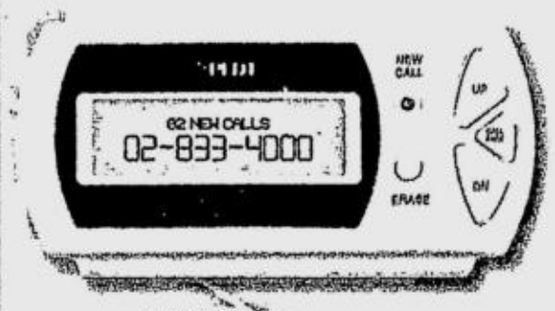

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   NOTE: Caller ID selling area is handled by PLDT authorized distributors.
3. Customer must accomplish the CID application form and should submit the form to the authorized distributor together with his payment.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0467 Series of 2001

UP man dies in hit-and-run accident

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines employee Anacleto Ravelista, 42, was killed in a hit-and-run accident yesterday morning at Philcoa, Quezon City.

Ravelista, of No. 4 IBP Road, Barangay Batasan, Quezon City, was driving a motorcycle when he collided with a car, which did not stop, said SPO1 Themistocles Montalban of the Central Police District (CPD) Traffic Sector V.

Montalban said Ravelista and the car were both on the southbound lane of Commonwealth Avenue when the accident happened around 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

Ravelista was thrown off his motorcycle and his head hit the pavement, Montalban said.

The car just kept on going, the policeman added.

Ravelista was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Pacquiao almost lost dancing the waltz

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

DAVAO CITY—It was hard to miss the punch that led to the thunder of unanswered blows that finished off the game and skillful Thai challenger. It was a right hook, shorter than usual, but thrown from the hip.

Manny Pacquiao had actually landed bigger and more solid blows in the first five rounds of the championship bout. But none of these connections proved hefty enough to deter Wethya Sakmuangklang from continuously charging back at the champ.

Pacquiao, making a fifth defense of his WBC international super bantamweight crown, had actually sensed he would be encountering some trouble in dealing with his Thai foe who had never even once been put off his feet. So Pacquiao, maybe for the first time in his career, played a cautious and calculating game starting the first round. Problem was, having been born and bred to rock and slam, he appeared both stiff and awkward doing the waltz up there.

Pacquiao on Saturday in Kidapawan was made to dance to the wrong slow tune. He appeared as though his hands had been tied. He looked ill at ease but the poor boy kept his promise. He refused to go kamikaze for an early knockout.

Until, of course, he got tagged dirty below the belt at least two times in the fourth. And a third time in the fifth round.

The three successive foul blows, which should have caused the outright disqualification of the Thai fighter, predictably woke up the brute in Pacquiao. The certified knockout artist came out of his artificial shell, returned to the original, inborn tempo and went bang-bang-bang with both fists blazing.

**

It was hard to miss the disguised right hand that signaled the final demolition. What those who watched the fight on television missed was the deafening ecstatic explosion of joy that nearly blew off the stadium roof.

It was no exaggeration, swore Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato, *"para bang matatanggal ang bubungan."*

Your deadline beater here felt and saw it all. It was like being caught in a sudden downpour out on a dusty street. A thick, tangible haze suddenly shrouded the fight ring and with the big roar of relief blossomed folded newspapers and empty plastic water bottles overhead.

It was both insane and blessed. And the crowd, maybe the biggest to have assembled for a boxing bout in Mindanao, could not be blamed for again losing grip. There was the general feeling Pacquiao could've lost.

Reason: Before the skillful but foul-punching Thai was floored and stopped by referee Bruce McTavish, Pacquiao had appeared in deep trouble. He was not only looking very puzzled, he was also allowing himself to be hit silly.

***

Because a total of three points had already been deducted from his foe, Pacquiao's handlers were told Manny could've still won on points if the fight had gone the distance. No, no, no, the handlers chorused vigorously. If the fight had dragged on to the latter rounds, Pacquiao would've been the one knocked out.

Their reason: Their man was being out-punched and fading fast.

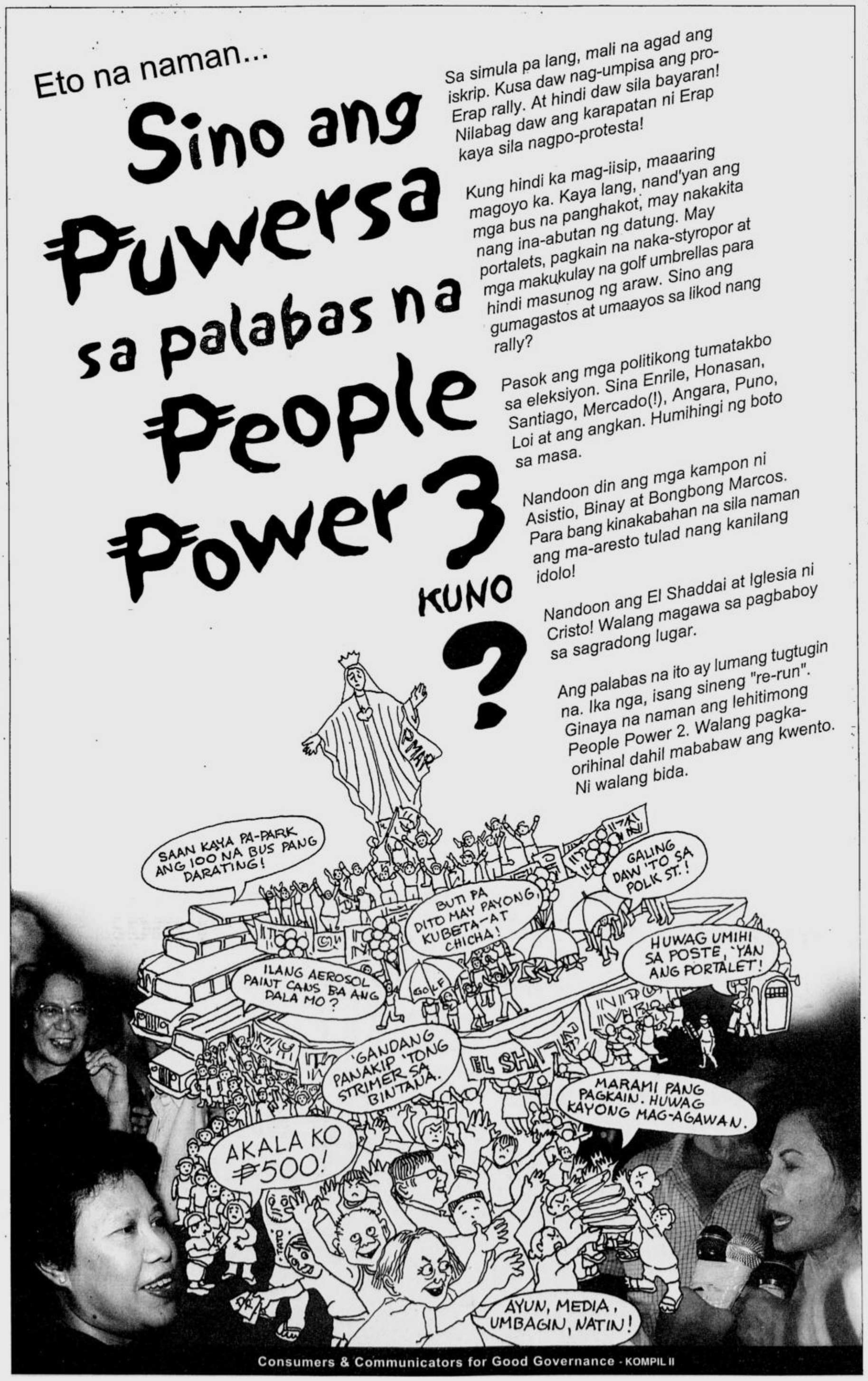
The victory, definitely not among the finest by Pacquiao, has led his handlers, led by Rod Nazario and Lito Mondejar, to return to the planning board.

Over coffee at the Royal Mandaya Hotel here while waiting for the afternoon flight to Manila yesterday, the main conductors of Pacquiao's rock-and-slam conciertos started wondering if they did right in having ordered a waltzing tune for the usually red-hot, restless champ.

They seemed doubly convinced now there was only one way Manny Pacquiao, who had lost the WBC flyweight crown due to excess weight, could be a world champ again.

The certified raging bull of Philippine boxing cannot excel doing the slow drag.

So it would most likely be back to the old theme: Why waltz when you can rock and roll?



Drunken janitor falls to death

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A DRUNKEN man who was said to be depressed over the death of his wife a year ago accidentally fell to his death yesterday in Sta. Cruz, Manila, police said.

Emilio Tinipunan, 56, a janitor, fell from the 6th floor of the Goodwill Bookstore warehouse at the corner of F. Torres Street and C.M. Recto Avenue at 12:05 a.m., said case investigator PO3 Joselito Padilla de Ocampo of the Western Police District Homicide Division. Tinipunan died on the spot.

Police theorized Tinipunan could have accidentally fallen due to drunkenness. They found a bottle of Tanduay Rhum ESQ in the area where the janitor fell.

Initial investigation showed Tinipunan was drinking near the fire exit on the 6th floor of the warehouse. Security guard Gabriel Lasam, 47, told police he last saw the janitor alive at 11:55 p.m. Saturday.

Lasam and several other people said they heard a thud and saw the janitor sprawled on the pavement, police said.

Marlon Advento, 21, a dishwasher at the nearby Wah Sun Restaurant, told investigators he saw Tinipunan fall feet first.

PO3 Ocampo said in his report that Tinipunan started drinking heavily after his wife died a year ago.

Members of the WPD Scene of the Crime Operatives led by Insp. Anioceto Partosa brought the janitor's body to Sanctuary Funeral Homes for autopsy.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, April 30, 2001
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 6:8-15
Gospel: Jn 6:22-29

Next day the people who had stayed on the other side realized that only one boat had been there and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples; rather, the disciples had gone away alone. Bigger boats from Tiberias came near the place where all these people had eaten the bread. When they saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Master, when did you come here?"

Jesus answered, "Truly, I say to you, you look for me, not because you have seen through the signs, but because you ate bread and were satisfied. Work then, not for perishable food, but for the lasting food, which gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give it to you, for he is the one the Father has marked."

Then the Jews asked him, "What shall we do? What are the works that God wants us to do?" And Jesus answered them, "The work God wants is this: that you believe in the One whom God has sent."

Commentary

We might be seeking God for God's own sake or merely for our own. Whichever of these two be the answer indicates the kind of religion we practice. Truly we need to do works of God. But this is consequent only to the realization that it is really God who has sought us and given us of God-Self for free. This is something hard to fathom for one who believes in oneself and not in Jesus, whom God has freely sent to be the sign of God's unconditional giving.

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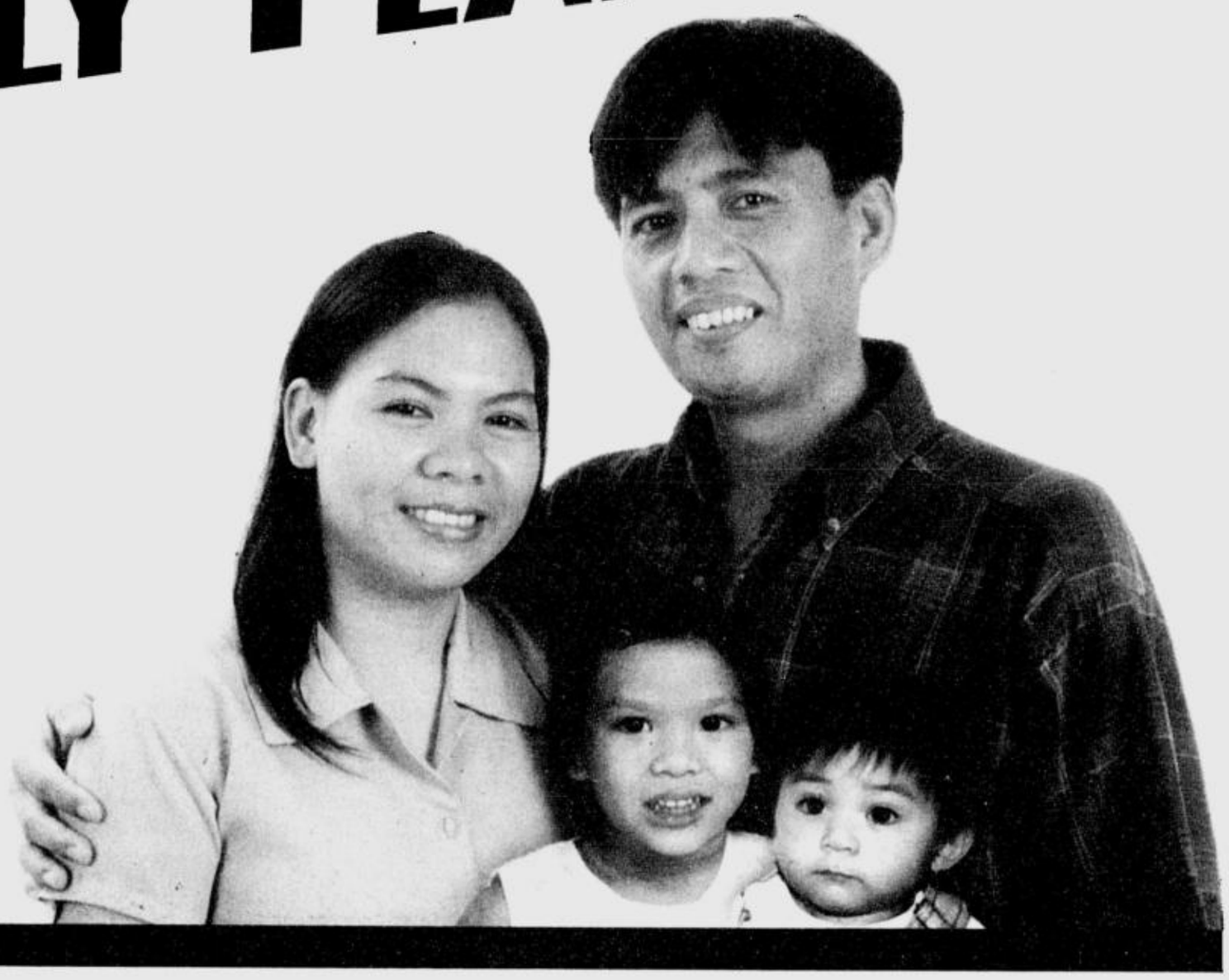
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (PARTNERSHIP)—Partnership as a juridical personality—To be considered a juridical personality, a partnership must fulfill these requisites: (1) 2 or more persons bind themselves to contribute money, property or industry to a common fund; and (2) intention on the part of the partners to divide the profit among themselves. It may be constituted in any form; a public instrument is necessary only where immovable property or real rights are contributed thereto. This implies that since a contract of partnership is consensual, an oral contract of partnership is as good as a written one. Where no immovable property or real rights are involved, what matters is that the parties have complied with the requisites of a partnership. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Tocao v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 127405, October 4, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Nagsalita na ang taumbayan

Mahalaga sa amin ang FAMILY PLANNING!



*Sa isang nationwide survey**

94% ang naniniwalang mahalaga ang Family Planning

76% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa Family Planning

69% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa malayang pagpili ng mga paraang Family Planning

74% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa pambansang budget para sa Family Planning

80% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa mga programang pangkalusugan ng mga kababaihan

*Pulse Asia, Inc., 2-15 Dec. 2000

Suportahan ang Family Planning Program ng Bayan!

Isang public service message ng Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare, Inc. (PNGOC)

Maynilad petition still in deep water

BY LEAH SALTERIO

THE TRAVAILS of Maynilad Water Services Inc., the concessionaire that services the West Zone of Metro Manila, are not over yet.

Maynilad stands to incur billions of pesos more in concession fee losses unless the government immediately acts on the water firm's petition for an automatic Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (Cera), according to company officials.

"Maynilad's failure would shake lender and investor confidence in the Philippines, a fiasco that the Macapagal administration and the public can ill afford," Maynilad president Rafael Alunan III warned. "It is really up to the government to do its homework now."

The peso devaluation caused Maynilad's concession fee payment of P4.5 billion to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to rise to P6.7 billion, which resulted in a P2.2 billion concession fee loss as of December 2000.

Maynilad's case has been elevated to the Cabinet. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo created a technical working group to resolve the issue.

However, up to this day, Maynilad's petition for an automatic Cera has yet to be approved, officials said.

During the three-day water service disruption that resulted from the recent Luzon-wide blackout, Maynilad incurred P3 million in losses.

Alunan said the automatic Cera will allow Maynilad to recover losses resulting from foreign exchange fluctuations.

PLDT, Smart, Globe, Meralco and other electric cooperatives have long enjoyed automatic Cera as part of their monthly billings, Alunan pointed out.

Maynilad earlier asked for a debt-service moratorium from the MWSS, saying it could not continue servicing the debt it inherited from MWSS when it took over the West Zone water concession.

The Court of Appeals granted Maynilad a 60-day temporary restraining order on its scheduled concession fee payment of P230 million.

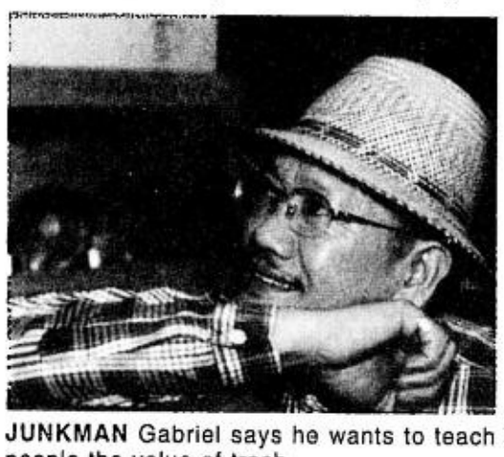
"Due to the pending automatic Cera, Maynilad suspended all capital expenditures programmed for this year because the company is unable to meet its financial obligations," said a Maynilad statement.

Maynilad also owes P500 million to its contractors who have stopped working on the company's expansion projects.

Maynilad's P14-billion capital investment program until 2002 has been suspended. This resulted in the layoff of thousands of Maynilad workers as of March 2001, according to Alunan.

Maynilad's P1-billion non-revenue water reduction program has also been put on hold.

Alunan said Maynilad's partner, Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux of France, which owns 40 percent of Maynilad, might also pull out from the company.



JUNKMAN Gabriel says he wants to teach people the value of trash.

Former scavenger turns found objects into art

BY NINI VALERA

ART takes on many forms. In Romeo Gabriel's works, art takes on trash and transforms it into more than 30 pieces of sculpture and wall pieces.

Working from a stash of empty bottles, discarded odds and ends like an old shoelace, the spring binder of a notebook, or plastic bags from the grocery, Gabriel creates what is now known as art from found objects, or simply junk art.

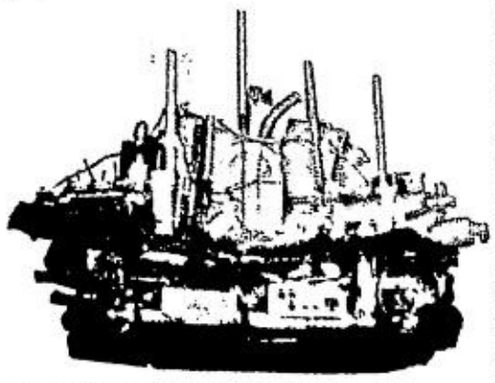
Gabriel admits he is no stranger to trash. Poverty pushed him to the streets to scavenge the dumps of Manila. He showed his flair for art by salvaging some of his find and creating pieces of "art" with these and a bit of paint.

He developed his talent further when he worked as a janitor at the Discovery Arts and Gallery where he learned the techniques of other artists and used these in his works. He worked in oil, acrylic and other media but he developed his unique style by using objects he found in the dustbin of the gallery.

Now the physical education director of the Emilio Aguinaldo College in Manila, Gabriel has also participated in several art exhibits and art contests, the most recent of which was a national junk art competition sponsored by a spray paint company.

Starting today, Gabriel's works are showcased in a one-man exhibit at the PhilamLife Bldg. on United Nations Avenue in Manila. He simply calls the show "Junk Art."

"This show is just part of my vision," says Gabriel. "It is also the beginning of my dream to help educate people on the value of trash."



TRASH transformed into "Tugboat."

Group wins tourism award

THE MORONG Balikbayan Association, headed by lawyer Monico Mateo Jr., won the grand prize of a house and lot in the Department of Tourism's Balikbayan Program 2000.

The DOT contest called for the most number of balikbayan visits from abroad between April 2000 and February 2001. Morong, a town in Rizal province, chalked up the highest points among participating towns and cities all over the Philippines.

MBA president Mateo was helped in the task by his wife Leticia, who resides with him in San Francisco, California, and their townmate Elsa Bautista.

The tourism prize was held during a Hawaiian luau and community ball tendered by Mayor Jorge Bernardo at the Morong Plaza on Easter Sunday.

The other officers of the Morong Balikbayan Association are Pat Angeles and Dante Pascual, vice presidents; Doris Cruz, secretary; Claire Trinidad, assistant secretary; Julie Victorio, treasurer; Paz Mendoza; assistant treasurer; Primo E. Santo, auditor; Lina Pangasnan, assistant auditor; Normita Fenn, public relations officer; and Cris de Rosas and Pido Alfonso, sergeants-at-arms.

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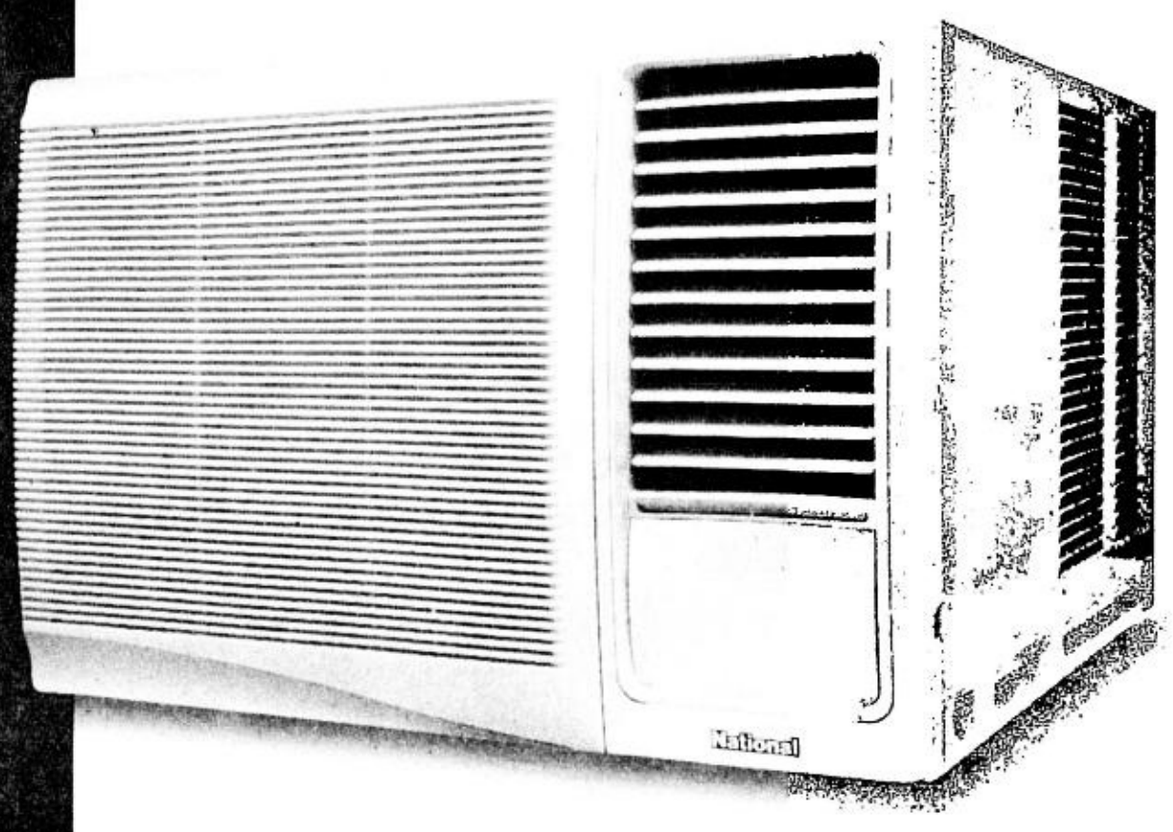

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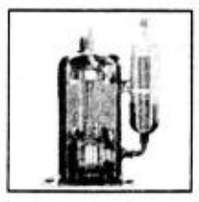

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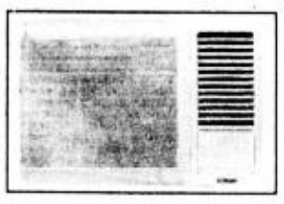

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Phone snatcher who killed victim nabbed

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

QUEZON CITY police on Saturday arrested a 17-year-old parking attendant who allegedly shot dead a Jollibee crew member when the latter would not surrender his cellular phone.

The suspect, a resident of Mother Ignacia Avenue, in Quezon City and a parking attendant at Red Ribbon bakeshop on Timog Avenue, was arrested after victim Richard B. Aumentado's girlfriend and two siblings positively identified him as the gunman, said Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza, Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit chief.

Aumentado, of Kamuning, Quezon City, was shot dead on April 20 on board a passenger jeep in front of his girlfriend and siblings.

"The suspect looks the same as the man in the police sketch of the gunman," Jaraza said.

MISSING

Rowena "Weng" Icasiano, 34, was last seen at the Glorietta Mall of the Ayala Center on April 17. Relatives describe her as fair-complexioned, 5-foot-3 and weighing between 110 and 120 lbs. People with information leading to her whereabouts may call Angelo Icasiano or Rosana Navasero at 0917-8994757, 5338506 loc. 112 or 141-924134.

Opponents bent on derailing Ipe's chances, say supporters

SUPPORTERS of actor Phillip Salvador, who is running for vice mayor of Mandaluyong, said a survey showing Salvador trailing behind incumbent Vice Mayor Jesse Cruz is "grossly erroneous and unfounded."

The group, Ipe Salvador For Vice Mayor Movement, said in a statement that the actor's opponents are just trying to downplay his popularity.

"But Ipe is not in the business of putting out allegations," said the group's spokesperson Jake Velez. "He just wants to present his platform of government to the people and let them decide whether to vote for him or not."

An alleged survey said to have been conducted by Strategic Polls from April 16 to 22, showed Cruz was leading Salvador by 49 percent. It also showed incumbent Mayor Benhur Abalos, running mate of Cruz, as taking a 61 percent lead over oppositionist Ernesto Domingo in the mayoral race.

The survey placed reelectionist Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr. in the lead with 77 percent against newcomer Angie Domingo-Buan with 15 percent.

Abalos and Cruz are running under the Lakas-PPC Coalition, while Domingo and Salvador are known to be supporters of former President Joseph Estrada.

Salvador's friendship with Estrada has created chaos in the actor's schedule, according to Velez.

"He now has the most hectic schedule among the candidates," he said. "Ipe shuttles from Edsa to Veterans (Medical Center, where Estrada was undergoing tests) to our house-to-house campaigns in Mandaluyong. Sometimes, he is only able to speak at 2 a.m. But the people still come to listen to him."

Without citing numbers or survey statistics, Velez said Salvador is easily one of the most popular candidates in Mandaluyong.

"It seems obvious that our opponents are doing everything to disorient voters and create a mind-set and condition the possible choices of the voters," Velez said.

He also denied that Salvador is an American citizen, an issue that the actor's opponents had been pushing.

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9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE CROW
10	DOLBY SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
12	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
9	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
10	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
TUTUBAN CENTER		**2514302**
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2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
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4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
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Press freedom . . .

(From page A30)

tive" toward him and then-President Estrada.

I've known *Tito* Ernie since I was 6 years old when he ran in the Laban ticket for the Batasang Pambansa with my father. He was a constant visitor in our home in Boston during our years in exile. I grew fond of him because he was always very thoughtful, bringing me *pasalubong* like records (when LPs were still being played on stereos) and stuffed toys.

He accompanied us home after my dad's assassination, and before his political falling out with my mom during her presidency, when I was a teener, he would always bring me home Esprit and Guess outfits from his travels abroad.

Tito Ernie was kind to me when I was a nobody. And goodwill shown to you when you are a child is difficult to forget as an adult.

After our interview, I realized people like Ernie Maceda truly play an important role in Philippine politics. They don't mind being the "bad guys." They are at the forefront of interviews to shield their party leaders and political allies.

Ernie Maceda willingly and strategically takes up the cudgels by giving calculated, inflammatory sound bites to make those he represents appear more statesmanlike and dignified in the process.

Spin doctors and spokespersons are successful when the anger of their perceived political opponents is watered down, and most of the negative public opinion goes to the spokespersons themselves.

All in all, I am proud of the degree of press freedom that we Filipinos have vigilantly upheld, and of the level of responsibility and accountability that both ABS-CBN and GMA news departments continue to exercise.

On a program like my live editions of "Balitang Kris," where we encourage viewer comments and questions by opening up our phone lines, a lot of control does rest on the shoulders of the host. The phone-in questions are received and taken down by the show's production assistants. The questions are handed to me on index cards, and which questions will be read on air and which will be set aside depends on my discretion.

The host has to constantly fight the temptation to air only the questions and opinions that agree with his or her own viewpoint.

As my favorite quotation states, "To whom much is given, much is expected in return."

For those of us in broadcast media, that statement rings even more true, especially during moments such as these.

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE CROW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SWEERT NOVEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
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TIMES	VERTICAL LIMIT / WHERE IS MY CAR
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REMAR-2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
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OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-2	GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
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CINEMA-3	THE CROW
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CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	THE SEDUCER
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
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6:00 PM - The Mexican
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And Gandolfini makes three

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR years now, Hollywood producers have been sending **Julia Roberts** and **Brad Pitt** all sorts of scripts, in the hope that the two big stars would find something that they would both love to do.

"Starring Julia Roberts *and* Brad Pitt" sounds like a wonderfully attractive movie tag line, but producers weren't able to take advantage of it—until the script for "The Mexican" got the two bankable stars excited.

After seeing the film, we wonder what their excitement was all about—specially Roberts, who looks alternatingly listless and hysterical in this odd little picture by **Gore Verbinski**.

"The Mexican" has Pitt playing a bagman for a crime lord, a job that drives his girlfriend (Roberts) up the wall. Worried that he'll end up in a coffin, she gives Pitt an ultimatum: either move with her to Las Vegas now, or he can kiss their romantic relationship goodbye.

Pitt moans that his *real* choices are even more limited: if he runs off with her, he *will* end up in a coffin, because his nasty boss insists that he does something really big for him before he can even think about granting him his freedom.

Unmollified, Roberts leaves for Las Vegas without Pitt, who morosely goes to Mexico, as instructed by his boss, to pick up an antique pistol from his boss' grandson and take it back with him to the States.

The assignment sounds easy enough, but in fact it becomes one big, bloody mess as the boss' grandson ends up dead in Pitt's arms, and all sorts of nasty Americans and Mexicans fight for possession of the old pistol, which constantly affirms its reputation for being "cursed."

In a series of flashbacks, we're informed that the pistol was crafted by a Mexican whose son loved the fianceé of a wealthy landowner's scion. The story keeps getting revised from flashback to flashback, depending on who's doing the narrating, but the important thing is that we learn that the pistol's retrieval will be an important act of closure for the maker's descendants.

Even better, the story surrounding the tragic legend about the pistol is eventually made to come to bear on the Roberts-Pitt love story, so the film also achieves a closure of its own.

To thicken the plot and character relationships, the two stellar characters are joined by a third lead in the person of a hired gun played by **James Gandolfini**, the star of the hit TV show, "The Sopranos."

When Pitt makes a mess of his mission in Mexico, it's decided to hold Roberts hostage to keep Pitt in line, and it's Gandolfini's character who's assigned to keep Roberts "company."

At first, Roberts resents Gandolfini like heck, but he soon lowers his guard and she discovers that he's really gay in his heart of hearts, and that they're in fact soul mates and "sisters."

For much of the movie, Roberts and Pitt are kept physically apart, so Gandolfini is needed to give Roberts someone to interact with. Come to think of it, maybe it's this long separation of the two leads that made Pitt and Roberts want to do this movie.

After all, with separate scenes, the leads' casting schedules could be arranged in a more efficient manner, and each star would be assured many scenes in which they could separately make their mark.

Well, whatever. The main point is, the movie's oddness and Roberts' frumpy character prove to be distractions that keep the movie from coming into its own. The Roberts-Gandolfini relationship is freshly affecting, though.

As for Pitt, he has many more striking moments than Roberts, since he's the one who keeps getting into one Mexican tamale of trouble after another.

What about the chemistry between the two stellar leads? It's there, but it can't be properly developed because they are kept apart for much of the movie.

In fact, the Roberts-Gandolfini relationship is so warm and oddly appealing that it threatens to upstage the all-important Pitts-Roberts connection.

That would never do, of course, so toward the film's end, it works extra-hard to underscore love and reconciliation between the two leads, so they can satisfyingly end up in each other's arms at the movie's final fade.

Nice try, but that comes a little late in the day, don't you think?

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  - anim [6] na 7.5 ml sachet ng Rejoice Complete.
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- Ipadala sa pamamagitan ng koreo o ihulog sa mga drop boxes sa gates ng **ABS-CBN Sgt. E. A. Esguerra Avenue** at **Audience Entrance** simula April 30 hanggang 5:00 ng hapon lamang ng May 17.
- Mas malaki ang pagkakataon ninyong manalo kung mas maraming entries ang ipapadala ninyo!
- Limampung [50] tagapakinig na may pinakamaraming entries ang pipiliin sa 18 Mayo 2001, simula 10:00 ng umaga sa tanggapan ng ABS-CBN Radio Network Division sa Quezon City na dadaluhan ng kinatawan ng Department of Trade & Industry.
- Sampung [10] tagapakinig naman ang posibleng manalo ng karagdagang P1,000.00 kung magpapadala sila ng isang pakete ng kahit na anong flavor ng Lucky Me Instant Mami at Pancit Canton at kukumpletuhin nila ang pangungusap na *"Lucky si Mommy kasi ..."*
- Ang mga mananalo ay babanggitin sa DZMM sa May 18 at tatawagan sa telepono. Dapat sumubaybay sa DZMM 630 kHz ang mga nagpadala ng entries para malaman nila kung qualified silang sumali sa araw ng koronasyon (May 20).
- Mula sa 50 finalists, 10 ang magwawagi at kokoronahan bilang ***DZMM Reina de Familia 2001*** sa May 20 (Linggo), 8:00 am, sa Star Mall, Mandaluyong City. Ang 10 reina ay sasali sa isang sagala, pagpapakilala, interbyu at haharanahin din sila ng mga sikat na mang-aawit.
- Ang unang 10 tagapakinig na may pinakamaraming ipinadalang entries ay mananalo ng Lucky Me gift pack at tig-P1,000.00 gift certificate para sa White Rock Beach Resort. Ang nalalabing 40 tagapakinig naman ay mag-uuwi ng Lucky Me gift pack at tig-P500.00 Star Mall gift certificate.
- Sampung [10] contestants na may pinakamaraming ipinadalang Lucky Me Instant Mami at Pancit Canton entries at may pinakamahusay na sagot kung bakit *"Lucky si Mommy"* ang magkakamit ng karagdagang tig-P1,000.00.
- Ang mga premyo ay maaaring makuha matapos magpakita ng valid ID sa mga ABS-CBN program coordinators sa araw ng koronasyon mismo sa May 20 sa Star Mall simula 7:30 am hanggang matapos ang programa.
- Hindi maaaring makasali ang mga empleyado ng ABS-CBN at mga kasaling kumpanya ng mga sponsors, pati mga kamag-anak hanggang second degree ng consanguinity at affinity.
- Ang mga premyo ay hindi pwedeng ipagpalit ng cash.
- Ang mga tagapakinig ay maaari lamang manalo minsan.
- Sakaling hindi makuha ng mga nanalo ang kanilang premyo sa araw ng koronasyon dahil sa ano mang kadahilanan, padadalhan sila ng sulat o tatawagan sa telepono para kunin ang kanilang premyo sa loob ng 60 araw.

Mabuhay ang Reina!

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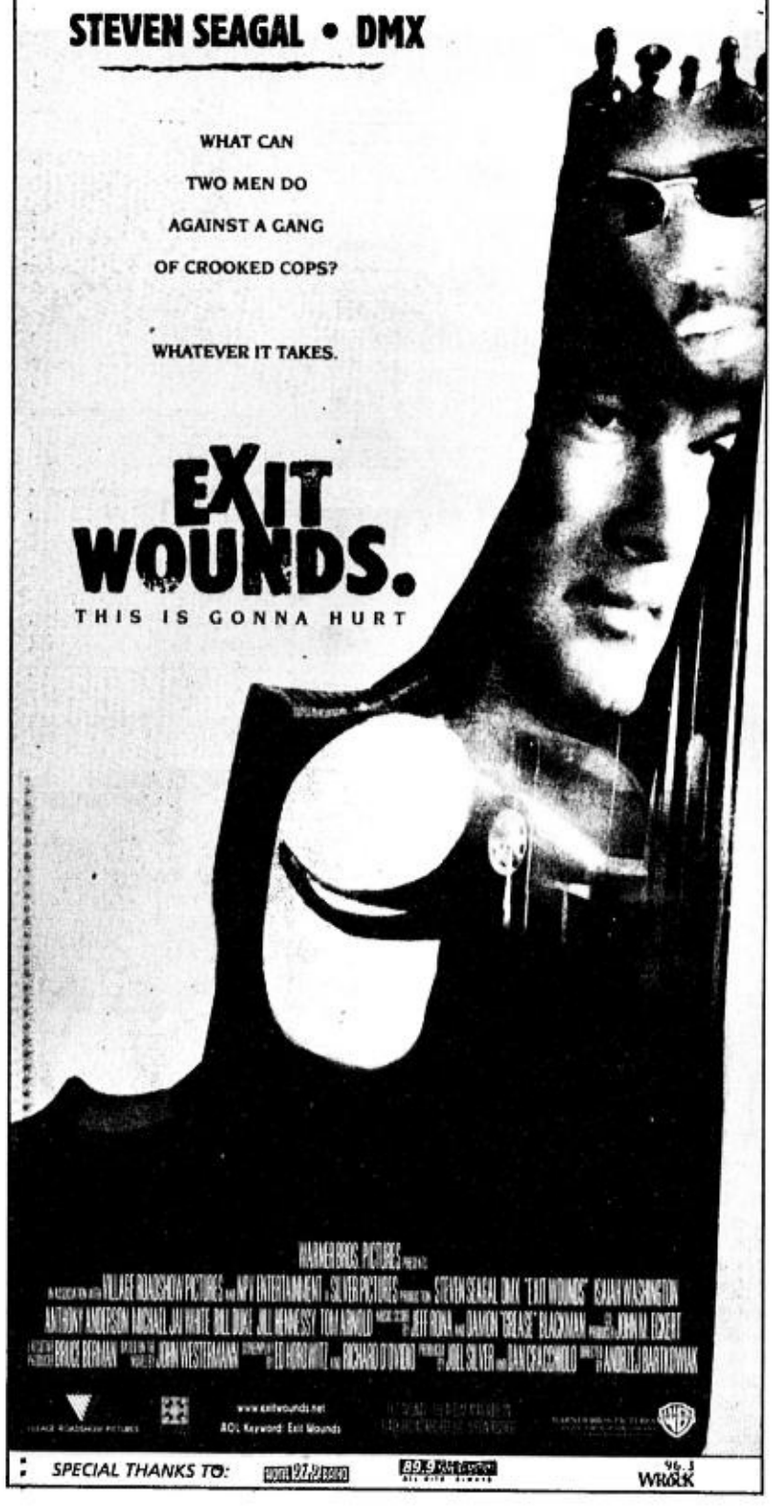

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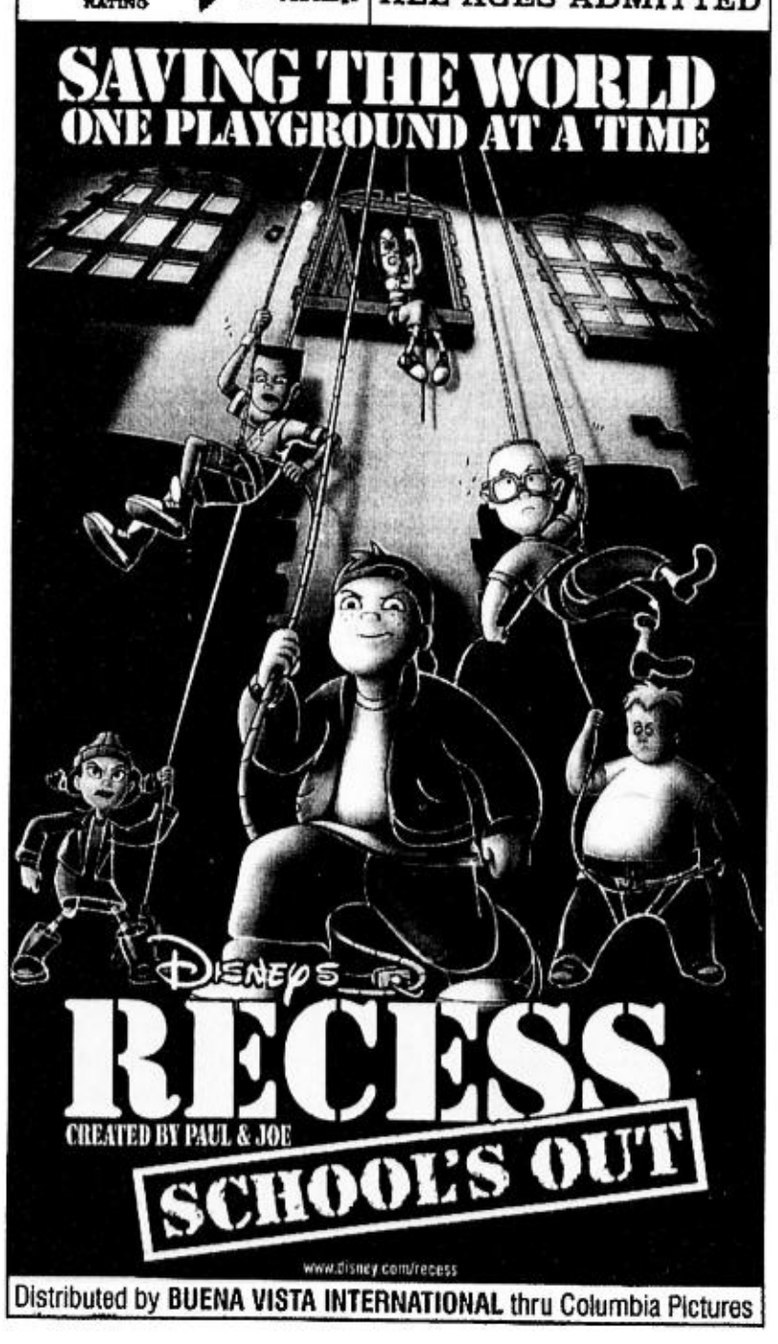

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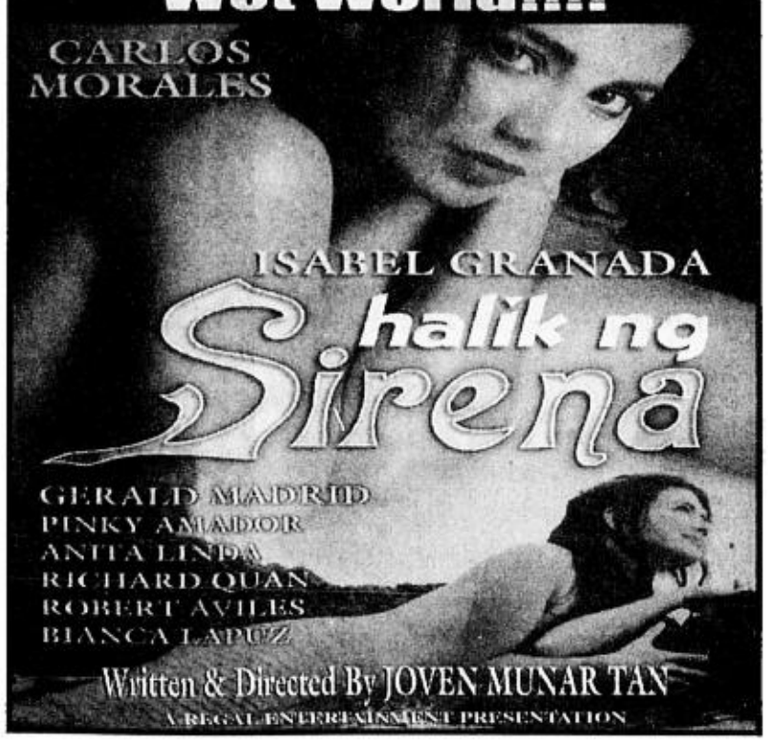

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SWEET NOVEMBER - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND - R 18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Press freedom and accountability

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

A MAJOR accusation of the pro-Erap crowd at Edsa is that the media have been very biased in their coverage of the former president. But is this license for the physical and verbal attacks they leveled at women journalists like ABS-CBN's **Connie Sison** and **Mariton Pacheco**, and GMA's **Maki Pulido**? These women, who were merely doing their jobs, were harassed, taunted, shoved, in some cases groped.

Unlike print journalism, on-cam reporting is challenging in the sense that personal biases are difficult to mask. Intentional or unintentional non-verbal cues, voice intonation, body language, a raised eyebrow, a smirk or a smile, and a shrug can be interpreted in so many ways by the viewer.

Because of who my mother is, and because of the last name I carry, I am very conscious of giving my guests equal time, and I exert much effort to be as far as possible in my handling of discussions, especially sensitive and politically charged ones, on my programs.

There is always the challenge to prove that I can have independent views and I can give everybody equal exposure.

One of the best compliments I have ever received as a host came from *Tita* Midz, **Armida Siguion-Reyna**. After her live guest appearance on "Today with Kris Aquino" on Jan. 19, she told me that she continued to be impressed by my ability to exercise my neutrality as a broadcaster by giving everybody the chance to express their views even if they might run contrary to mine.

Ernie Maceda, who was on "Balitang Kris" last Friday, said that during the impeachment trial, as then-President Erap's unofficial spokesperson, he had no problems with live appearances on TV. It was the taped interviews that bothered him, because "of the ten questions that were asked, only two answers would be aired and the statements would be spliced in such a way as to be so nega-

PRESS/ A28

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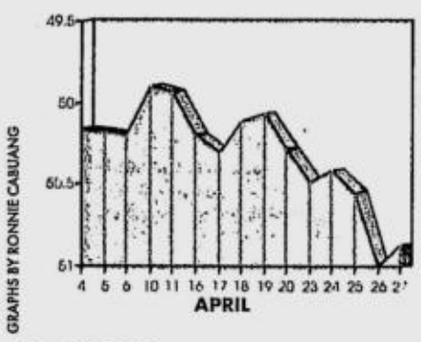

GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

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As of 5 p.m., April 27, 2001

¥124.06 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.06 as of 5 p.m., April 27, 2001

GOLD:$264.50/265.00
per ounce Hong Kong, April 27, 2001

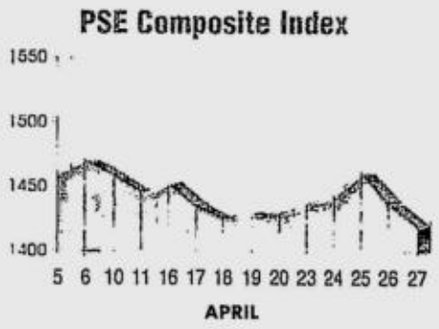
Apr. 27, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.106562	1.000000	50.7640
Japan	Yen	0.008987	0.008122	0.4123
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594777	1.441200	73.1611
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141887	0.128223	6.5091
Switzerland	Franc	0.649848	0.587268	29.8121
Canada	Dollar	0.717382	0.648298	32.9102
Singapore	Dollar	0.608737	0.550116	27.9261
Australia	Dollar	0.562563	0.508388	25.8078
Bahrain	Dinar	2.935334	2.652661	134.6597
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295076	0.266660	13.5367
Brunei	Dollar	0.607000	0.548546	27.8464
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000093	0.000084	0.0043
Thailand	Baht	0.024229	0.021896	1.1115
UAE	Dirham	0.301310	0.272294	13.8227
Korea	Won	0.000841	0.000760	0.0386
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.903700	45.8754
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.462054	23.4557
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137768	6.9937
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410081	20.8174
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065674	3.3339
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022402	1.1372
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000467	0.0237
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.151991	7.7157
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004508	0.2288
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005431	0.2757
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022402	1.1372
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.147462	58.2498

STOCK MARKET

Cautious trading seen

PSE Composite Index



STOCK market trading is expected to remain dull as players take a cautious stance due to regional weaknesses and local political concerns.

The market's movement this week will depend on the developments in the pro-Estrada rally.

"The market's direction hinges on the daily developments, particularly the potential impact of the protests. It seems like with the present events, the economy is taking a back seat," said Astro del Castillo, research head of A&A Securities Inc.

(See stock market report on Page B6)

The market's next psychological support is at 1,400 with the major support at the 1,370 level.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped by only 8 points or 0.6 percent to close the week at 1,420.36 on Friday as pro-Erap supporters started to converge in Edsa on Wednesday after the arrest of the disgraced leader on plunder charges.

Even if the mass actions in Edsa drags for another week or two, analysts believed that these would not escalate to the extent of destabilizing the Macapagal administration.

The stock market will be closed tomorrow (May 1), Labor Day.

ATI girds for trade expansion

PORT and logistics firm Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) will continue its bid for world trade expansion in 2001, according to newly elected ATI chair Capt. Roger Davies.

"ATI is ideally positioned to take advantage of the growth in world trade. Global container traffic has grown by nearly 10 percent annually in the last decade. This momentum should continue as barriers to trade are reduced and an increasing proportion of goods becomes containerized," Davies said in a press statement.

ATI plans to invest P1.2 billion in 2001 to meet growing demand.

Davis also announced the declaration of a cash dividend of 8.5 centavos per share to stockholders as of May 25. The expansion plan and the decision to declare cash dividends were approved at the company's annual stockholders' meeting on April 26.

ATI earned a net income of P641 million from revenues of P2.9 billion in 2000.

Compared to 1999 results, net income improved by 29 percent while revenues grew by 14 percent.

INTEREST RATES

DAILY STATISTICAL INDICATORS
April 27, 2001

PARTICULARS	Today	Previous Day	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Bangko Sentral R/P Rates (% p.a.) 1/ 27 April 2001					
Overnight R/P	11.7500	11.7500	11.7500	12.2500	11.0000
Term R/P	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
Interbank Call Loan Rate (% p.a.) 26 April 2001					
Weighted Ave.	9.5938	9.5625	9.6563	10.0625	8.9063
High	9.6250	9.6250	10.1250	10.2500	9.5000
Low	9.5625	9.5000	9.5625	10.0625	8.8125
Promissory Note Rates (% p.a.) 2/ 26 April 2001					
60 Days	N.T.	10.0000	N.T.	N.T.	8.8343
90 Days	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	8.5000
180 Days	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.
Foreign Interest Rates (% p.a.)					
90-day LIBOR	4.3400	4.3400	4.4100	4.8800	6.3900
90-day SIBOR	4.3500	4.3600	4.4100	4.8800	6.3900
180-day LIBOR	4.2600	4.2400	4.3200	4.7100	6.6100
180-day SIBOR	4.2700	4.2500	4.3500	4.7300	6.6200

1. Starting Oct. 30, 1987, Bangko Sentral R/P rates refer to the weighted average interest rate (WAIR) of transacted rates.
2. Of 10 sample commercial banks
N.Q.—No Quotation; N.T.—No Transaction

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

YIELDS on treasury bills are expected to jump in today's auction following the political uncertainties caused by the continued massing of Estrada supporters on Edsa.

Similarly, traders see the peso trading between 51 and 51.50 to $1 this week as regional developments combine with local jitters to put pressure on the currency.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate is expected to rise by 0.20 percentage point in today's auction.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the peso would remain vulnerable primarily to regional volatility and partly to domestic tension.

Foreign markets, he said, feared that the ongoing protests would become violent and disruptive. A no-election scenario already being sounded off by some quarters has aggravated the rising concerns.

"But I think the peso's weakness should be temporary. I am confident the demonstrations would be handled properly. I don't see any threat to a change in government," he said.

Buenaventura stressed that today's situation was very different from the final week of the Estrada administration when the country was on the brink of defaulting on its loans and declaring a debt moratorium.

"The problem then was that foreign markets do not see a near resolution to the political situation as the impeachment trial was seen to drag on and we were pictured to stay in a political limbo that would lead to violence and upheaval," the BSP chief explained.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza agreed with traders that there would be pressure for treasury bill rates to go up but he said any increase would be minimal.

Traders said the government's borrowing rate, particularly the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate, would go up by at least 20 basis points and possibly back to double-digit levels from last Monday's 9.855 percent.

Securities dealers explained that the restless market would tend to penalize the short-term maturity because the uncertainty was seen to be temporary. Still, yields on the six-month and one-year tenors are also seen to move up from the previous week's 10.959 percent and 11.368 percent, respectively.

"I don't expect T-bill rates to fall. Either it would stay at current levels or there could be a slight uptick," Edeza said, warning that unreasonable rates would definitely be rejected.

He pointed out that state coffers would enjoy P14 billion in earnings from the maiden issue of the retail treasury bonds, which were almost three times oversubscribed as the government's target was only P5 billion.

Taxes paid in March and April were also seen to boost government coffers.

"The political uncertainty would at least increase treasury bill rates by 20 basis points across all tenors. What will happen in the protests would be a decisive factor in the outcome of the financial markets in the coming days," a securities dealer said.

Last Thursday, the peso slid to 51 to $1, its lowest level during the Macapagal administration which has projected an average exchange rate of 47 to $1 this year.

SM property to house new casino in Tagaytay

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

STATE-OWNED Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. is finalizing a deal with the group of retail tycoon Henry Sy for the opening of a new 9,000-square-meter casino inside the SM group's Tagaytay property this July.

SM group vice president for real estate Henry Sy Jr. said the new lease agreement would facilitate the transfer of the old casino located in Taal Vista, which the group also owns, to the new property across from the hotel.

Pagcor officials said the gaming firm hoped to start operations by July after much delay as they were hoping for a cheaper contract from the SM group.

The new casino is among the first developments in the Tagaytay property, which is being developed into a multi-use commercial complex by different companies within the SM group.

Portion of the estate, Sy said, would also be sold to his father's flagship company, SM Prime Holdings Inc., for the establishment of another shopping mall.

Aside from its core business of retailing and shopping center development, the SM group has also ventured into the leisure estate development business.

The new and bigger Pagcor casino in Tagaytay is expected to contribute more to the gaming firm's revenues.

As of the first quarter of this year, Pagcor announced that its total income stood at an all-time high of P4.04 billion, representing a 20-percent increase from the level posted in the same period last year.

"Despite the unstable economic climate and the turbulent political events that characterized the first three months of the year, Pagcor still came out with another winning performance," Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino said in a statement.

"This is particularly good news

SM/ B3

Corporate RP's crown jewel on the line in SMC showdown

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

(First of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

WHEN Philippine business icon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. presided over his first board meeting as chair of San Miguel Corp. on July 30, 1998, the Marcos and Estrada crony made three key board resolutions that would set the tone for his return to one of Asia's largest food and beverage concerns.

First, Cojuangco asked for sole authority to decide when to give a one-month salary bonus to the company's 16,000 employees should San Miguel meet its income targets.

Cojuangco would later give his rank-and-file up to 21-month salary bonuses for the next two years in keeping with his trademark generosity, which endeared him to employees during his first tour of duty as San Miguel boss, when the company still had a virtual monopoly of the beer market and Ferdinand Marcos was still in Malacañang.

Second, the board approved the sale of the company's equity in Coca-Cola Beverage Europe, the first of several corporate deals that would raise a cash hoard of more than $1 billion for San Miguel.

This was in line with Cojuangco's new policy of unloading San Miguel's stake in non-core businesses where it had no management control, such as Nestle Philippines Inc. and Rizalag Land Corp., while acquiring companies that would allow San Miguel to go into companies where it could leverage its strengths in distribution and packaging.

Third, Cojuangco approved the sale of the company's HS 125 Series 800 jet and two Bell Helicopters as part of the company's cost-cutting program.

Six months later, however, San Miguel's board unanimously approved a $9.3-million investment for a 64-percent equity in Challenger Aero Air Corp., a new aircraft chartering company based in Subic Bay.

While the board minutes on Jan. 28, 1999 clearly showed that Cojuangco's ECJ would own 18 percent of Challenger Aero—which was why Cojuangco inhibited himself from the voting—San Miguel, in a faxed statement to the INQUIRER, said the air charter provider was wholly owned by the company.

While the first two resolutions would earn him the loyalty of his employees and admiration of most money managers, the third was just one of several deals done at the behest of Cojuangco that were at the crux of the Macapagal administration's campaign to regain control of the company.

Government bodies such as the Office of the Solicitor General and pension fund Government Service Insurance System, a minority shareholder of the company, are questioning, apart from the charter aircraft investment, San Miguel Beer's multimillion-dollar sponsorship of horseracing and race horse auctions in Australia; a P100-million yearly appropriation for the establishment of a San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale Group; and several pending acquisitions on the table such as the buyback of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. and takeover of Pure Foods Corp.

Challenger Aero

When San Miguel Beer division chief Faustino Galang briefed co-directors on the proposed closure of the firm's aviation operations, he noted that the firm spent P40 million just to maintain the aircraft "even though their utilization is low."

COJUANGCO

The aircraft were due for replacement and did not form part of the company's core business, which was why the board agreed to shut down the business. In its resolution, the board also authorized Cojuangco to oversee the sale.

Six months later, the San Miguel board agreed to take majority control of a $14.4-million aircraft charter firm where Cojuangco was a minority shareholder because "the company's need for aircraft services remain."

The Office of the Solicitor General is questioning why the PCGG nominees did not question the apparent change of heart by management on the aircraft services as well as Cojuangco's interest in the deal.

Based on the board minutes,

CORPORATE/ B10

AIG allots $200M for RP infrastructure projects

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE AMERICAN International Group (AIG), the biggest American international insurance company, has earmarked $200 million for additional investments in the Philippines particularly in infrastructure.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said AIG re-affirmed its commitment to the Philippines during a recent visit by its top officials to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Roxas said that AIG cited the Skyway project in the South Luzon Expressway among the local projects that it was prepared to bankroll until completion. He said the group was prepared to infuse up to $200 million in the country.

AIG is part-owner of the $1.7-billion Asian Infrastructure Fund II, which partially financed the Metro Skyway project, a two-level, 12-lane toll road being built to relieve congestion in Manila's busiest toll way.

The Asian Infrastructure Fund II makes equity and convertible securities investments in the infrastructure and infrastructure-related sectors in China, India, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and other Asian countries. AIG's partner in this fund is the government of Singapore.

The AIG Asian Infrastructure Fund II was part of the $950-million Cemex Asia Holdings whose initial transaction was to invest in local cement firms Rizal Cement and APO Cement.

AIG had previously invested in Pilipino Telephone Corp. during the early 1990s through the AIG Asian Infrastructure Fund I, which was worth $1.1 billion. These funds are 10- to 12-year closed-end funds that invest $20 million to $60 million at a time in individual infrastructure projects for a minority interest. The funds are invested exclusively in unlisted equities, targeting sponsor companies of some of Asia's biggest infrastructure projects.

AIG's Philippine subsidiary, Philamlife, has likewise made substantial investments in the Philippines such as those in road infrastructure (Manila-Cavite Coastal Road) and power generation (Bauang Power Plant).

AIG is moving to take a big slice of the infrastructure boom in East Asia which would require $30 billion worth of new private investment capital annually over the next seven years.

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Out there

ONE MINDANAO

By Martina Grau

LAST year, not long after the escalation of the conflict in Central Mindanao, I asked an entrepreneur from General Santos City about the effects of the war on the local economy.

He replied, almost defiantly, that it was business as usual. "After all," he said, "All the trouble is out there. We are not affected."

By "out there," he meant Tupi, a municipality where there had been several armed encounters between government forces and the MILF.

This flashpoint was less than an hour away along the highway from GenSan, about the same amount of time it would take to get from Ayala Avenue in Makati to Ortigas at rush hour.

From his tone, one would have thought that Tupi was somewhere in the Arctic circle.

Curiously enough, his words were echoed some weeks after by another businessman in Davao (three hours away from General Santos by car). Tourists had canceled their bookings at his hotel, scared off by media reports of the conflict.

The businessman was upset. "I told them that Davao is perfectly safe," he said. "All the fighting is out there, near GenSan."

A Makati-based analyst talked gloomily about how the Philippines' investor ratings had been affected by the conflict and the Sipadan kidnapping (the national political crisis hadn't broken yet).

He said, "What investors don't understand, is that the war is out there in Mindanao."

A year later, businessmen in cities across Mindanao are still coming to terms with the aftermath of the conflict "out there," including economic disruption particularly in the central region's agriculture sector—a dearth of new investment, and the lingering perception of instability.

This was reflected in the recent series of consultations held by the Mindanao Business Council, where the issue of peace and order was found to be among the three most pressing concerns of the region's private sector.

A hard lesson had been learned: in the Mindanao context, drawing a line between "us here" and "out there" may provide a comforting mental barrier, but the reality is that there is only a single Mindanao.

Whatever takes place in one area, however isolated, sends reverberations throughout the region and the rest of the country.

A study published last year by Philippine Business for Social Progress, a non-profit organization, highlighted two aspects of Mindanao.

One is the Mindanao that enjoyed the fruits of the economic boom of the mid-90s, when "growth areas" sprang up around cities like General Santos, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga.

The other Mindanao is where 16 of the country's poorest provinces are located including all the provinces belonging to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao—and where poverty rates are 50 percent higher than the national average.

The conflict in Mindanao has deep and interlocking economic, cultural and political roots. But poverty, accompanied by great economic disparity and a feeling of disenfranchisement among sectors of the population (the people "out there") is recognized as a major factor.

At the Mindanao Food Congress last February, President Macapagal-Arroyo said that addressing the interconnected problems of poverty, secession, and insurgency in the less developed areas of the region is of the highest priority for her administration.

The President said that the poverty in Mindanao is not "because of a lack of per capita income growth, it is because of unequal distribution of income and assets."

This concern is echoed by international donors and multilateral lending institutions assisting the region.

Speaking at the same conference, Bradford Philips of the Asian Development Bank pointed out: "Social capital—the trust and cooperation in communities that is a factor in production—is essential for development."

He said that in Mindanao, "building social capital must accompany physical investments if the latter are to yield benefits. Fundamental to social capital is equity, and the understanding that cooperation will yield greater benefits to all."

The mission director of the United States Agency for International Development, Patricia Buckles, said: "The government has made significant strides in laying the basis for peace and development (in Mindanao). However, much needs to be done to solidify these hard-earned gains. The continued equitable treatment of the Muslim community is crucial."

The business sector, the engine of growth that ultimately determines the nature and pace of development in Mindanao, will have play a part in ensuring that the benefits of growth are equitably distributed throughout the region.

Exactly how that will be done still remains to be worked out, but surely it must begin with wearing away the mental barrier between "us" and "them."

The continuing physical integration of the region must be accompanied by recognition that there is a single Mindanao whose stakeholders must find some way of working together for a common future.

If the private sector ignores this, it runs the risk of being left "out there" as well, along with everyone else.

BOP deficit in January swells to $596 million

THE COUNTRY'S balance of payments (BOP) was in a deficit of $596 million in January, $290 million more than the same period last year, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSP data showed that the deficit in financial accounts of $1.109 billion from only $217 million caused the deficit to widen.

A BOP registers a deficit when more money goes out of the country in the course of transactions with other countries and with bilateral creditors, compared to what came in from exports and investments.

Exports actually grew by 6 percent in January, which helped the current account to post a surplus of $518 million, up 11.9 percent from $463 million in January last year. Export earnings, however, were not enough to offset the outflow of dollars.

The surplus was also attributed partly to the contraction in imports by 7.6 percent as the manufacturing sector remained cautious given economic uncertainties.

Analysts said there could be a slight reversal in the external payments position towards the end of the year as the export growth was expected to contract from 8.7 percent to 4 percent.

As of January, foreign direct investments yielded a surplus of $53 million compared to a deficit of $82 million last year. The deficit in portfolio investments, on the other hand, was 64.6 percent lower at $143 million from $404 million in the same month last year.

The BSP is looking forward to more direct and portfolio investments this year with the improvement in investor confidence. It expects to post a BOP surplus of at least $100 million by the end of the year.

The BOP, along with current account figures and gross international reserves, are considered major indicators of the country's economic health.

The BSP, however, is not so optimistic considering the slowdown in the economies of US and Japan, which are the two biggest trading partners of the Philippines and a major source of foreign investments.

The cut in export growth forecast this year was expected to result in a lower gross domestic product growth of only 3.8 percent from an earlier target of at least 4.3 percent.

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SEC approves rehab plan for ASB group of companies

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the proposed rehabilitation of property developer Luke Roxas' distressed ASB group of companies.

In an order dated April 26, the SEC panel hearing the ASB group's petition for rehabilitation said that in arriving at its decision, it balanced the interests of the secured creditors and unsecured creditors, who may not have any recourse if the plan is not approved.

"The approval of the plan will not deprive the secured creditors of their right to the mortgaged assets. If there is a subsequent failure of rehabilitation, the availment of their suspended rights over the mortgaged assets will be restored," the panel pointed out.

"On the other hand, the unjustified disapproval of the plan will greatly prejudice the unsecured creditors who will be left unable to recover their investments or collect their claims," the panel said.

The ASB group owes a total P3.9 billion to more than 700 individual creditors and P5 billion to various creditor banks, the largest of which were Allied Banking Corp., Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., United Coconut Planters Bank, Equitable PCI Bank, and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. The group's total liabilities amounted to P12.7 billion while its assets supposedly amounted to P13 billion.

In its rehabilitation plan, the ASB group is requesting secured creditors to release ASB property mortgaged in their favor in exchange for other, less valuable assets of the company.

ASB also proposed that for unsecured creditors, an asset pool will be created. It will be an unincorporated entity administered by a trustee bank and a project governing board into which assets of ASB released from secured creditors or otherwise unencumbered will be contributed. From the asset pool funds could be generated to complete the unfinished developments and pay off the unsecured creditors.

Unsecured creditors did not oppose the plan but suggested, among others, that the plan should maintain the P5.23 billion in advances made to Roxas and that these should be eventually liquidated.

However, majority of secured creditors have opposed the plan on the grounds that the plan is neither viable or realistic, it irregularly offsets P5.23 billion in receivables from Roxas against the appreciation of real properties, it shows the ASB group is insolvent and should be subject to liquidation proceedings.

Under SEC rules, a rehabilitation plan cannot be approved if majority of a class of creditors nixes the plan unless the objections are manifestly unreasonable.

The panel said that it found the secured creditors' arguments against the plan as unreasonable and so approved the plan with the exception that the set-off regarding advances to Roxas would not be allowed. The panel also deferred the resolution on the motion to exclude the ASB-Malayan Towers from assets claimed by the ASB group.

The panel also appointed ASB group interim receiver Fortunato Cruz as rehabilitation receiver.

The order was signed by hearing panel chair Eugenio Reyes and hearing panel members Rosalina Tividad-Tesorio and Irene Isidoro Torres.

SM property . . .

(From page B1)

for us because it means more funds can be directed to our cash-strapped government coffers," he said.

During the quarter, he said the corporation was able to distribute P2.42 billion for the national government and the many agencies mandated to receive a share of its earnings.

"With our promising income performance, we are well on our way to achieving our target income of P16.15 billion for the year 2001, or a 10-percent growth from our income last year," he said.

Aside from its casino gaming operations, Pagcor also generated substantial earnings from its jai alai and bingo operations. From January to March, its share from jai alai operations reached P35.4 million. It generated P17.2 million from in-house bingo operations and P202 million from its share in the operations of authorized bingo firms.

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VIA PUREFOODS

SMC plans backdoor listing of meat ventures

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is considering the backdoor listing of some of its meat businesses through Pure Foods Corp., the food manufacturing unit it will buy from the Ayala group.

A high-ranking SMC official also said the company would likely close the Pure Foods deal, which would make the conglomerate the undisputed leader in the food business, next month.

The official also explained that plans were in the pipeline on how to maximize synergies with this new acquisition.

At least two SMC subsidiaries are engaged in the same business as Pure Foods', Monterey Foods Corp. and San Miguel Campo Carne Corp.

The official said the direction was really to consolidate the meat businesses but noted that all the Pure Foods brands would be maintained, specially the popular Pure Foods tender juicy hotdog.

"We are not buying brands to collapse. We're buying brands to develop," the official said.

Asked how the consolidated meat operations would be structured, the official said: "We haven't decided. Pure Foods is a listed company so we may opt to use that vehicle."

SMC is also planning to use the Pure Foods platform to scout for new opportunities in other food-related businesses, such as the flour business. SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco had earlier announced that he would like to see 20-percent growth in revenues for the conglomerate over the next two years.

"Pure Foods controls about 17 percent of the flour industry, which is about 330,000 tons a year. Once SMC takes over, the potential of expanding that business is really there," the official said.

For this year, the official said the conglomerate was targeting an increase in profits by 18 percent on the back of a 30-percent rise in operating income and a 20-percent improvement in sales.

In 2000, SMC posted a recurring net income of P7.5 billion from P6 billion the previous year on the back of P88.7 billion in sales.

The company is also seen to further reap the benefits of the SMC group's recent strategic acquisitions, such as Metro Bottled Water Corp., Sugarland Multi-Foods Inc., Australian premium brewer J Boah & Son and Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

On the beer side, he said that despite the contraction in the industry by 4.2 percent as a result of the economic downturn and lower farm income, SMC's beer division slowed by only 3 percent.

Liquor subsidiary La Tondeña Distillers Inc., on the other hand, posted a 34-percent increase in net income to P1.35 billion from consolidated revenues of P14.2 billion.

Meanwhile, SMC's food and agribusiness revenues went up 12 percent to P17.6 billion.

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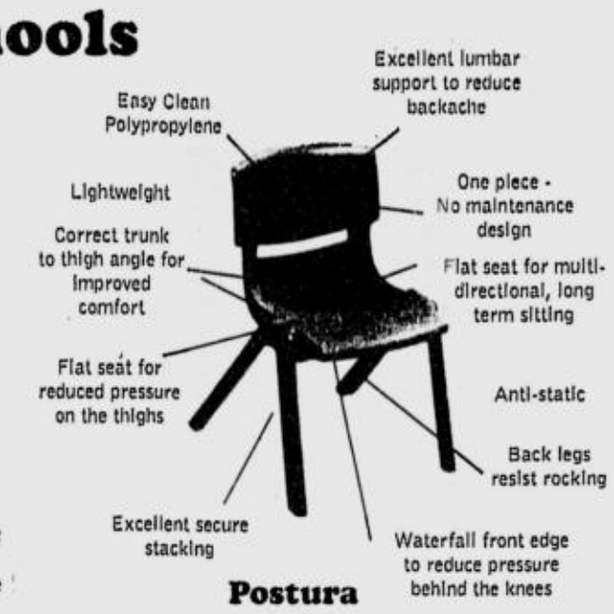

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Neda review delays gov't power project

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. chair Sergio F. Apostol said the wind farm project in Ilocos Norte would have been operational by October if not for the National Economic and Development Authority's decision to again review its contract.

"(The 120-megawatt project) was already approved by Neda, but there is a new administrator and President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered to review it again," Apostol said.

PNOC's subsidiary, Energy Development Corp., would be operating the $54.27-million Phase I of the wind farm, which would have a capacity of 40 megawatts.

The former Leyte representative said he had requested the President to prioritize the review of the wind farm contract and to "remove it from the bulk of projects where the government is borrowing money from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation."

He said JBIC had already agreed to finance the project so it would be better to have a separate arrangement.

Last week, the Department of Energy said the project was set to push through next year with two of three phases in operation.

Apostol said the wind farm would be easy to build and would be working within three months from the start of construction.

He also said PNOC was already studying proposals for Phase II and Phase III of the wind farm.

"Northwind, a Filipino consortium that is financed by a Dutch firm, is applying for Phase II," Apostol said.

The PNOC chair said a Swedish firm and a Korean company were also interested in the project.

He explained that the Ilocos Norte wind farm would be the foothold of wind energy projects in the country, with Central Luzon as the area for succeeding initiatives.

He also pointed out the possibility of setting up wind projects in our eastern seaboard, which may prove promising because of the strong winds coming from the Pacific Ocean.

The United States National Renewable Energy Laboratory reported in a 1999 wind mapping survey that the Philippines' wind power potential went as high as 70,000 mw, nearly seven times the country's present total power demand.

S&P affirms ratings on Quezon Power bonds

STANDARD & Poor's has affirmed its BB+ foreign currency rating on Quezon Power (Philippines) Ltd. Co.'s $215-million senior-secured bonds due 2017 and its BBB- local currency issuer credit rating.

At the same time, the ratings were removed from CreditWatch following the successful conversion of Quezon's US Eximbank construction loan into long-term financing. The outlook is negative.

Quezon is a limited partnership owned indirectly by affiliates of InterGen, Ogden Energy Group Inc., Global Power Investments LP, and PMR Ltd. Co. Coal supplies come from the PT Adaro and PT Kaltim Prima mines in Kalimantan, Indonesia, and should be sufficient to meet Quezon's requirements.

Quezon successfully met the conditions precedent for converting its US Eximbank construction loan by April 27, 2001. The project would have faced refinancing risk if this conversion had not occurred by April 30. The $424.6-million long-term loan is funded by Private Export Funding Corp. and covered by a comprehensive guarantee from the US Eximbank.

Quezon's project is a 440-mw base-load, pulverized, coal-fired power plant and 31-kilometer transmission line located on the east coast of Luzon. The project has been completed, with Quezon declaring May 30, 2000, as the commercial operating date under the power purchase agreement (PPA) with Manila Electric Co.

The final acceptance date under the engineering, procurement, construction, and management contract with Overseas Bechtel Inc. and Bechtel Overseas Corp. is likely to be retroactively declared to July 2000. *Reuters*

Equitable bucks Bangko Sentral terms for loan restructuring

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GO family is again blocking government efforts to intervene in Equitable PCI Bank after it informed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that it would rather pay in full its P30-billion emergency loan than have the BSP impose stringent conditions for its rehabilitation.

Among the BSP's conditions before it would agree to restructure Equitable PCI's emergency loan is to put in place a board of directors acceptable to all shareholders, a final capital infusion plan to be undertaken within the second quarter, and a revamp of the management team including the bank president.

"Equitable PCI is changing its tact. They have indicated that they plan to pay completely instead of asking us to restructure the loan," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The country's third largest lender had earlier asked the BSP's Monetary Board to restructure the unpaid portion of the P30-billion loan so that it becomes payable over five years instead of three months. Buenaventura said the loan carried an interest rate of 91-day treasury bill yield plus three percentage points.

The BSP chief said monetary authorities were willing to give Equitable PCI three more months to settle its remaining obligation, which the former said was only about 40 percent of P30 billion.

"We could give them a couple of months, say three months, to finalize their plans as long as they are paying us. Anyway, we have already rolled over their obligation by three months," Buenaventura said.

The central bank governor acknowledged that a restructuring of the loan would give the BSP a hand to intervene in Equitable PCI's operations. "If we restructure, we have to be a partner. We have to appoint a controller," he added.

The BSP is reportedly pushing for the appointment of banker Deogracias Vistan to become president of Equitable PCI and replace Edilberto Javier who is serving in an acting capacity after Wilfrido Vergara resigned during the stockholders' meeting two weeks ago.

"We really don't care who they choose as senior officers as long as they pay us, we don't have any problems," Buenaventura said.

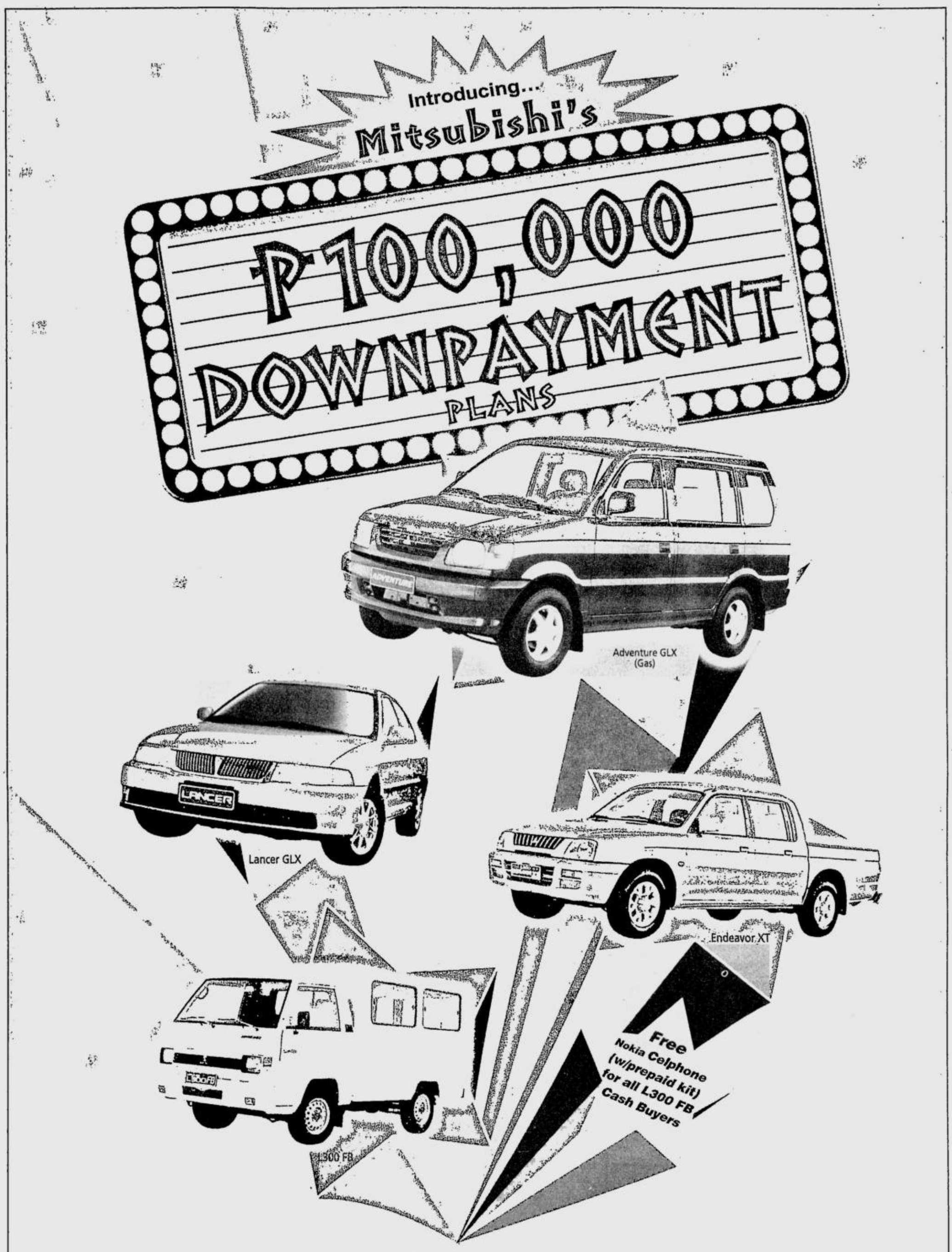
The Go family, which had been accused of wanting to control the bank despite its reluctance to pump in money, has reportedly resented the conditions being imposed by BSP, particularly the appointment of Vistan and the revamp of the management team.

"If they pay us down then they could tell us to mind our own business," Buenaventura said.

Heavy withdrawals from late last year to early this year prompted Equitable PCI to run to BSP for a P30-billion liquidity assistance.

Depositors of Equitable PCI withdrew their funds after the bank, primarily because of the friendship of its former chair George Go with ousted President Estrada, was dragged into the "Juetengate" scandal.

The Go family owns 31 percent of Equitable PCI but the government, with the combined 25 percent of the Social Security System and the 12 percent of the Government Service Insurance System, would end up with a bigger block.



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MODEL: Lancer GLX M/T
SRP: P615,000

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
100,000	45,086	31,234	24,934	17,942	14,492	13,146

MODEL: Endeavor XT
SRP: P705,000

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
100,000	51,684	35,805	28,583	20,567	16,613	15,069

* Bank Rates as of April 1, 2001

MODEL: L300 FB - Dual Aircon
SRP: P542,000

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
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100,000	39,734	27,527	21,974	15,812	12,772	11,585

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Cautious trade seen this week

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

MARKET PLAY

AFTER a rebound that was cut short by the mass actions staged by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada last week, cautious stock trading is expected this week with some upside potentials once the political uncertainties have been discounted.

Vickers Ballas Securities assistant director for sales Enrique Sta. Ana said the good news was that the market's fall last week was not as bad as expected despite the string of negative news arising from the political overhang, the drop in the Dow Jones index and the negative outlook on the country by international rating agency Moody's Investors Inc.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped by only 8 points or 0.6 percent to close the week at 1,420.36 on Friday as pro-Erap supporters started to gather along Edsa on Wednesday after the arrest of the disgraced leader on plunder charges.

The consensus is that the 1,400 level should provide a strong support to the market this week.

Even if the mass actions in Edsa could drag for another week or two, Sta. Ana was among those who believed that these would not escalate to the extent of destabilizing the Macapagal administration. He projected that the Phisix would trade between 1,400 and 1,450 this week.

Worldsec International Securities (Philippines) research head Eric Claudio said that while the political overhang was limiting the market's potential gains, it was possible that a rally might occur by Wednesday when the market reopens, assuming that no violence erupts in Edsa. The stock market will be closed tomorrow (May 1), Labor Day.

"The uncertainties are not good. It's a nuisance that the current administration, however, has enough security to withstand," Claudio said.

But Claudio said the recent Edsa mass actions were but a function of how much funds would be shelled out by its organizers and noted that sooner or later, such funds would be depleted. He also stressed that this uprising did not have the elements of what would constitute a successful revolution because of lack of support from the institutions which were instrumental during People Power I and II—the academe, social-oriented groups, the labor unions, the middle class, the Church and the military.

"We just hope that no violence erupts," he said.

On the other hand, financial portal 2tradeasia.com said recent jitters amid the mass actions in Edsa might keep the index meandering at low levels until investors could gauge the stability in the Philippines' political landscape.

"Investors want to see an organized platform how regulators will handle arraignment proceedings, as well as the public's acceptance of the verdict. While President Macapagal's administration is exercising extreme patience to prevent violence, the longevity of the protest as well as the number of crowd supporters might keep risk-averse investors at bay. In this light, we expect volatility to be more prevalent in foreign exchange markets, specially if the peso cracks higher than P52:$1 within the week," 2tradeasia.com said.

But 2tradeasia.com also said contrarians and brave investors might gradually troop to the market once the looming pessimism reaches its crest.

"We believe most of the negative news have already been absorbed in prices since the Phisix declined by only 3 percent to 1,420 since Estrada's arrest last Wednesday. If the Phisix stays aloft 1,400 and builds a strong base above this level, market watchers can scout for opportunities to evaluate investment choices and re-allocate portfolios in stronger counters," 2tradeasia.com said.

Last week, mining stocks gained most, rising by 5 percent, led by Philex Mining as speculators loaded the stock on new developments transpiring from its drilling site in Surigao. Banks and property issues followed, rising by 2.6 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively, on hopes that more monetary easing might follow in the coming weeks.

On the other hand, 2tradeasia.com noted that weekly average turnover thinned to P340 million or 17 percent down, although foreign transactions reverted to net buying position at P257 million.

Meanwhile, Securities Specialist president Francisco Villaroman believed that the market was bound for a further freefall based on technical analysts.

"We are ready to call forecast that Phisix will break 1,400 very soon. The corrective rally is over. The market's indecision is over. The 1,500 level we had looked forward to now seems remote. On the downside, we have mentioned that the level near 1,425 seems to be a strong support level. But this has to be interpreted at this time in the negative, when the index keeps reverting to this point without higher highs on the rebound. In fact the rebounds have seen lower highs, and this shows deteriorating market demand and momentum," Villaroman said.

"At this point, the best that can probably be expected is more sideways movement above 1,400, which will end very soon. But the fall Thursday and Friday last week has clearly been impulsive in character. We expect this to continue to below 1,300 to 1,360, followed by market remorse in a rally back to 1,400, then renewal of the down leg, probably in a test of the 1,243 low last October 2000," he said.

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Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	150,000
Camp John Hay	350,000	450,000
Canlubang	850,000	1,000,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	125,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	2,000,000	2,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	210,000	220,000
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Makati Sports Club "B"	-	500,000
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Manila Golf (Individual)	-	15,500,000
Manila Polo	4,000,000	4,500,000
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Sta. Elena "A"	-	2,100,000
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Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Tivoli Royale	20,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	500,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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CLUB FILIPINO	340,000	EAGLERIDGE "A"	300,000
FOREST HILLS "C"	450,000	EVERCREST "A"	110,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	430,000	MANILA GOLF (INDIV.)	14,500,000
MANILA GOLF (INDIV.)	15,500,000	MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	16,250,000
MANILA POLO	4,100,000	MANILA POLO CLUB	Please call
MT. MALARAYAT "A"/"C"	.50M/1.1M	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	850,000
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PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225,000
STA. ELENA "A"	2,100,000	RIVIERA "A"	250,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP.)	550,000	STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	1,150,000	VALLE VERDE	170,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	925,000	WACK WACK GOLF	10,000,000

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3	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
4	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	120,000.00
5	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	500,000.00	350,000.00
6	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000.00	-
7	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	500,000.00	-
8	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	450,000.00	350,000.00
9	FONTANA RESORT & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000.00	-
10	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	-
11	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	15,500,000.00	14,500,000.00
12	MANILA POLO CLUB	4,200,000.00	-
13	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	-	800,000.00
14	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	900,000.00
15	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB (Individual)	30,000.00	-
16	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB (Corporate)	50,000.00	
17	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	600,000.00	-
18	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000.00	130,000.00
19	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	95,000.00	-
20	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	250,000.00	240,000.00
21	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100,000.00	-
22	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
23	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	870,000.00	800,000.00
24	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	-	175,000.00
25	VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		300,000.00
26	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		10,500,000.00

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E-MAIL: frhi@v-link.net

ANG TAN GOLF, CLUB & SHARES, INC.
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No. 10573
268 Kalentong Street Mandaluyong City

SELLING	
Alabang A	2,200,000
Baguio Country Club	845,000
Camp John Hay Golf	350,000
Celebrity	220,000
Club Filipino	300,000
Eagle Ridge A	450,000
Eastridge	220,000
Evercrest	110,000
Fontana	Please call
Forest Hills A	260,000
Forest Hills B	280,000
Forest Hills C	450,000
Manila Golf (Corp.)	Please call
Manila Southwoods A	820,000
Manila Southwoods B	1,000,000
Makati Sports B	450,000
Mt. Malarayat A	395,000
Orchard A	320,000
Quezon City Sports	230,000
Riviera A	250,000
Riviera B	350,000
Rockwell	680,000
Royale Tagaytay	Please call
Sta. Elena A	2,050,000
Subic	Please call
Tagaytay Highland Club	450,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	1,100,000
Tagaytay Midlands	865,000
Wack Wack	11,000,000

BUYING:

Alabang A	2,150,000
Alabang B	2,200,000
Baguio Country Club	845,000
Camp John Hay Golf	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000
Celebrity	210,000
Club Filipino	300,000
Eagle Ridge A	450,000
Manila Golf (Indiv.)	14,500,000
Manila Golf (Corp.)	16,750,000
Manila Southwoods A	820,000
Manila Southwoods B	950,000
Makati Sports B	450,000
Montemar	30,000
Orchard B	400,000
Orchard C	600,000
Quezon City Sports	225,000
Sta. Elena A	2,050,000
Sta. Elena B	2,200,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	450,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	1,100,000
Tagaytay Midlands	865,000
Valle Verde CC	200,000
Valley Golf	330,000
Wack Wack	Please call

Installment: Tagaytay Highland & Midland Share, Lot, Condo, Pinecrest, Bellview, Woodlands
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FPDsavills
INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Ayala - Malugay Property 8,056 sq.m.

The land is strategically located within close proximity to Ayala Avenue extension and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue intersection. Based on preliminary studies, we believe the site to be ideally suitable for:
Business hotel and serviced apartments
Residential condominium
Office - Grade 'B'
Improvements on the property include five semi-concrete buildings with a gross floor area of 4,182 sq.m. No current height restrictions applicable.

Sen. Gil Puyat - Jupiter Exchange 35,037 sq.m.

The property comprises a large site of about 3.5 hectares well located near the financial, residential and entertainment districts of Makati. We believe the site is ideally suitable for:
Retail establishments
Office - Grade 'B'
Improvements on the property include a 2-level semi-concrete office-warehouse/shop bordered by a concrete fence.
With current Floor Area Ratio (FAR): 5

For more information, please contact the sole agents:
David Leechiu
Tel: (02) 885 0595
Fax: (02) 885 0578
dleechiu@fpdsavills.com.ph
Paul Ryan Isip
Tel: (02) 885 0580 loc. 307
Fax: (02) 885 0578
pisip@fpdsavills.com.ph
(02) 885 0580

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF APRIL 27, 2001

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"		1,900,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"		2,000,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	850,000	800,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	150,000	100,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	400,000	350,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		850,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		125,000
8. CELESRITY CLUB	210,000	200,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	490,000	450,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	330,000	300,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	450,000	400,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	130,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls Call	Pls Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	300,000	260,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	550,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000	400,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	500,000	450,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB		3,500,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	850,000	
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	1,000,000	900,000
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	180,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200,000	
27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	500,000	400,000
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Pls Call	280,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	Pls Call	400,000
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	Pls. Call	600,000
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "B"		130,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000	
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	280,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	650,000	500,000
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls Call	Pls Call
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,200,000	2,000,000
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	1,100,000	
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	900,000	
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB		175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	350,000	
42. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		9,500,000

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

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TRADING MANAGER
LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA / FINAS VIRAY
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 PB#150-856000

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, April 27, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	33,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	1,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	74	75.5	74	75.5	127,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42	42	42	42	4,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	216	212	213	56,450
Philippine National Bank	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	75,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	200
Manulife Financial Corp.	1255	1260	1255	1260	6,450
Sun Life Financial Serv.	960	960	960	960	1,540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	37	37.5	37	37.5	12,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	360,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	680	680	260
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	680	685	675	685	59,530
Ivantage Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	80,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.042	0.043	0.04	0.042	115,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41.5	41	41.5	11,800
Manila Electric Co. B	54	55	54	54.5	189,500
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.74	1.74	4,029,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.22	1.26	1.22	1.26	3,349,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	630,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.5	13.75	1,023,300
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	30	30	29.5	30	106,300
RFM Corp.	0.96	0.98	0.94	0.98	1,990,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	45	44.5	45	67,500
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50.5	49.5	49.5	139,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	2,652,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	600,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	2,200
A. Soriano Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	120,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	12.75	9.4	12.75	700
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.44	4,774,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	160,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	1,090,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.98	126,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	22.5	22.75	22.25	22.75	123,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Ionics Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	3,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.9	235,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.74	0.75	5,300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	360,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,380,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	50,000
Music Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.48	93,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Prime Gaming Mgmt.Corp.	15	15	15	15	1,076,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	250,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.25	13.25	1,420,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.41	0.43	6,520,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	130,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	40,000
Manila Jockey Club	20	20	20	20	3,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.2	5	4.2	5	209,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	37.5	37.5	37	37.5	261,300
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	470	470	470	470	1,500
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	660	680	660	680	960
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	127,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	4,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	3,127,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	80,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	960,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	900,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.04	2.08	15,026,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	700,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	36,440,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.8	7	13,621,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	107,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	4,650,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	840,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	355,740	34,984,830.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	159,979,450	187,011,890.00
PRO	70,954,000	174,659,500.00
Mining	114,780,000	1,385,600.00
OIL	23,640,000	275,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	369,709,190	398,317,020.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	600.92	UP 0.14
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,927.75	DOWN 22.57
PRO	570.79	DOWN 10.14
Mining	1,154.32	UP 3.34
OIL	1.48	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	734.32	DOWN 6.21
Composite	1,420.36	DOWN 17.14

NO. OF ADVANCES: 13; NO. OF DECLINES: 42; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 1,980

No magic bullets

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

THE BATTLE between the forces of good versus evil (or evil versus good?) took an interesting turn at the end of last week. The political uncertainties that the international rating agencies were worried about became a reality, regardless of the assurances from the administration. People Power is a two-edged sword. And once that genie has been let out of the bottle, it becomes difficult to get it back inside.

Indonesia has been discovering that fact and now, so are we too. Have you noticed also that, if you are a participant, it is called People Power. If you disagree, it is called "mob rule;" sort of like the inter-changeability between the terms cronies and friends.

As I said some months ago, "political solutions" are no answers to economic challenges. Unfortunately, the reverse is true. "Political solutions" can cause economic challenges. As of this writing, the peso is "comfortably" above 51 to the dollar, giving credence to the idea that money, ultimately, cares more about stability than "morality." At least in the short run.

Today marks the 99th day of the Macapagal presidency. From reading some of the reports out of the international investment houses, it seems that the confidence building that was so important to put the Philippines back on the map has failed. One comment I read related to the President's news conference last week. When asked about the "negative" rating from Standard and Poor's, the President said: "We need to try harder." But again, there were no specifics behind that response. The rather sarcastic comment I read came from Hong Kong, made by an analyst featured often on CNBC. He wondered if the Philippines expected that free baggage cart service at the Naia airport was what the President meant by trying harder to attract foreign investment. What a mess.

Another research report written by a European

ON THE MONEY/ B8

This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINE BANKING

Did you know?

...that even before the establishment of formal banking in the Philippine Islands during Spanish times, there was already an abundance of Mexican and other Latin American coins circulating in the Philippines?

...that such abundance of coins was a result of heavy importation of goods from Mexico?

...that most of these were so-called "rebel coins" because they were minted in countries that had rebelled against Spain?

...that in order to legalize the circulation of these coins, the Spanish captain-general in the Philippines issued a decree in 1828 requiring the countermarking of the coins with the inscription "MANILA" on the obverse side?

...that when the independent Latin American countries gained the recognition of Spain, the practice of countermarking was discontinued in the Philippine Islands starting in 1837?

150...

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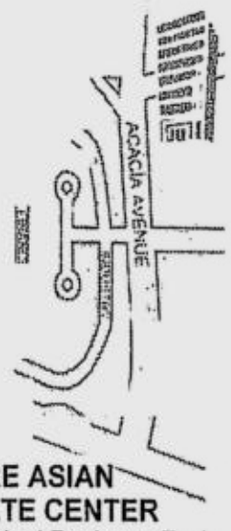

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FILPLAS Company Inc.
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Get Plugged!

Course	Start Date	End Date	Time
CREATIVE PRODUCER TRACK			
FUNDAMENTALS *Preparing for iNet Certification* *HTML* *Adobe Photoshop*	April 30, 2001	May 17, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *DHTML* *Macromedia Fireworks* *Macromedia Dreamweaver*	April 30, 2001 May 21, 2001	May 17, 2001 June 6, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
INTERMEDIATE *Macromedia Flash* *Macromedia Flash Advanced* *Macromedia Shockwave Director*	April 30, 2001 May 21, 2001	May 18, 2001 June 7, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
E-COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT TRACK (JAVA)			
FUNDAMENTALS *Preparing for iNet Certification* *Program Logic Formulation* *Building Web Document Using HTML*	April 30, 2001	May 16, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *Javascript Programming* *Java Programming for Beginners* *Migrating to Object-Oriented Programming with Java Technology*	April 30, 2001 May 21, 2001	May 30, 2001 June 20, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
INTERMEDIATE *Java Programming* *Object-Oriented Analysis and Design for Java Technology*	May 7, 2001 June 4, 2001	May 18, 2001 July 2, 2001	8:30 to 5:30 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
E-COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT TRACK (MICROSOFT)			
FUNDAMENTALS *Preparing for iNet Certification* *Program Logic Formulation* *Building Web Document Using HTML*	April 30, 2001	May 16, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *Mastering MS VB 6.0 Fundamentals* *Mastering MS VB 6.0 Development* *Implementing Dbase Design on MS SQL Server 7.0*	May 21, 2001	July 2, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
NETWORKING TRACK			
FUNDAMENTALS *Introduction to Networking* *Introduction to LAN*	May 10, 2001	May 22, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *Introduction to WAN Architecture* *Introduction to TCP/IP Concepts and Practices*	May 28, 2001	June 8, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm

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Vote PARP!

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

TWO weeks before the elections, is the party-list system still a deep, dark mystery to you? Relax, I have met a lot of supposedly well-informed people who are in the same boat.

The party-list system is a new wrinkle in our electoral process. The system is meant to elect a new kind of congressman—the party-list representative—who represents the citizens in no district or geographical area. Instead, he stands for a sector of society, such as the SSS and GSIS retirees, the main constituency of the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), a leading party-list candidate.

Before the 1987 constitution, the House of Representatives was filled only with congressmen representing geographical areas or districts. This system equalized representation in terms of area. But certain sectors of society were left unrepresented in the House. Take the one million retirees at SSS and GSIS. If they were spread out evenly over 10 districts, they could easily elect 10 congressmen. But since they are distributed all over the country, there is not one district where a retiree could get elected as congressman on the votes of his fellow retirees alone.

The party-list system solves this problem. Only under the party-list system does PARP, the only party-list candidate representing SSS and GSIS retirees, have an excellent chance of sending to the House as many as three representatives.

This does not mean, however, that only retirees can vote for PARP. Any registered voter, specially an active SSS or GSIS member who hopes to live on to retirement age (and who doesn't?) can vote for PARP.

So, you vote for two kinds of congressman: the old-style district congressman and the brand-new party-list representative.

One question often asked: how many party-list candidates can one vote for? There is a slot in the ballot for only one candidate. So, write PARP, not the name of any of the three nominees. Why does Comelec prohibit the nominees to campaign in their personal capacity? This stems from the idea that the party-list elections are about parties and issues and not personalities.

I disagree. According to Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani (who is sure to be reelected by a huge landslide), the voter has to see the faces of the candidates before he makes up his mind. Specially in the provinces, voting is a very personal decision, according to Agbayani. While I was campaigning in the first district of Camarines Sur (Nonoy Andaya is expected to be reelected also on a huge landslide), my very relatives and childhood chums agreed to vote for PARP only if I were a nominee.

Then there is the question of whether some party-list candidates truly represent the so-called marginalized and underrepresented sectors for which the party-list system was crafted. Some candidates do look like they should never have been approved by Comelec. Don't bother with the problem. When in doubt, don't vote.

One thing you can be sure of, the retirees of this country are as marginalized as any other group you can think of. After a lifetime of hard work, he finds himself a second-class citizen. With a meager pension not even enough to pay for his medicines, let alone his other basic needs, he feels adrift in a world that slowly passes him by.

Also, the retirees or senior citizens are not represented at all in Congress. No wonder the senior citizens law makes beggars of the very persons whose interest this law is supposed to promote. The labor code is biased against the older employee. Even the veteran, after serving the country valiantly in the field of battle, is slapped around.

One of the most precious values in Filipino culture is respect for elders. Oh, sure, the elderly is respected anywhere he goes—until he asks for the senior citizen's discount. When he walks into a restaurant, a waiter is likely to greet him insultingly: "Do you have a senior citizen's card?" When he presents his prescription at a drugstore, he probably will be told, "Sorry, out of stock." A hospital will grant him his discount on his medicine provided he pays the entire bill in cash.

With their representatives in Congress, PARP will work to rewrite the senior citizen's law so the elderly will regain the dignity and self-respect they deserve. No longer will the senior citizen be treated like beggars.

The party-list system is not such a big mystery. On Election Day, simply write in the proper slot in the ballot the name of the party of the *lolo* and the *lola*. Vote PARP!

BOI pushes liberalization of inter-island shipping

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments is pushing for a five-year liberalization program for the country's inter-island industry to give domestic shipping firms ample time to beef up their fleet and boost operations to be at par with foreign shipping lines.

In a position paper, the BOI said it wanted the liberalization of inter-island shipping to be limited initially to the Manila, Cebu and Iloilo ports and gradually to Poro Point, Batangas, Davao, Zamboanga, Iligan and Cagayan de Oro.

Aside from a staggered liberalization, the BOI said the government was prepared to establish a financing facility to help domestic shippers in their expansion requirements.

The proposed maritime credit of ship venture fund will be administered by the Development Bank of the Philippines with the money coming from the Asian Development Bank and Bank of Japan.

The BOI is also studying the possibility of amending the Ship Mortgage Law (to allow domestic shipping companies to tap more affordable financing from foreign banks) as well as tax laws on shipping activities. Domestic shipowners claimed that their foreign rivals have an undue advantage because of their tax exemptions on fuel purchases, imports of spare parts, insurance policies, income taxes and freight revenues.

The shipowners claimed that shipping costs were high because local players were hobbled by heavy taxes, lack of cargo volume and outdated trading practices, higher fuel costs, prohibitive interest costs, and inadequate port facilities.

The BOI has tagged inter-island shipping as a priority investment area considering that most of the country's commodities are shipped through sea vessels.

The BOI is hoping that by opening up inter-island shipping to foreign companies, consumers and businessmen would benefit from lower costs. However, the agency is also mindful of the need to ensure that domestic shipping lines can compete on an even footing with foreign players before the inter-island shipping is liberalized.

On the Money

(From page B7)

bank out of Singapore cited the potential "battle" for San Miguel Corp. (SMC). A longtime observer of the Philippine stock market, he noted that after almost 15 years since Edsa I, the government is back to trying to control and operate SMC. He also commented that it looks like there is a big problem with the project of the Ayala group to rehabilitate the railroad system between Manila and Laguna. It appears that the government is going back on the original plan to allow this to be a private equity venture and instead wants it to be a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme. I have been told that Ayala might back out rather than go with a plan that does not allow them to maintain a piece of the ownership. If that were true, this very important economic development undertaking would be dead before it begins. What a shame.

The stock market is not like a sporting event where the crowd cheers for its favorite team. As much as some people would like to believe and make you believe that political developments will move prices in a predictable direction, it usually does not happen. Money that may or may not buy shares does so when the answer to this question is positive. Are companies making profits (or are going to make) within a stable environment?

Unfortunately, only half of the question can be answered affirmatively. Many companies listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange have done and will continue to do well from a profit picture. Other companies have done poorly and that will continue. Other companies are beginning to show an improving financial situation. What we should be looking at right now is a market that is moving with the economy with some winners and some losers. That is the way it usually is.

Since the middle of 1996, we have not had a settled atmosphere to do business. We have had to deal with El Niño, Cha-cha, the Asian crisis, Concord, the impeachment, Edsa 2, and a host of other "minor inconveniences." That is why we have been in a declining market for four years.

Constant change is a part of life. But this is getting ridiculous.

Our stock market is a dead horse for the time being, regardless of the unfolding of events over the next few days. Take any price upswings as a golden opportunity to get some of your gold out of stocks. Moreover, I would ignore any comments that say, "If this happens, prices will advance." There are no political "magic bullets" for the stock market. This bear market is not going to end until we have some predictability as to what may happen tomorrow. Now I am not saying this situation is going to last forever. And I am not saying that it could not begin shortly. I am saying that for now keep your money in your pocket.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

Neda to trim list of firms entitled to tax incentives

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

AFTER pruning down the number of investment areas to be pushed by the Board of Investments, the National Economic and Development Authority is further cutting down the proposed investment priorities plan (IPP) this year by limiting the number of industry clusters in a region to only two.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said that the Neda wanted to focus the government's investment promotion efforts to a smaller number of industry clusters to ensure their success. Roxas said that in last year's IPP, there were up to 10 industry clusters in a single region.

The Board of Investments, the lead agency drafting the IPP, adopted two years ago the cluster strategy wherein industry players are encouraged to locate in a common site near their raw material sources to save on transportation and storage costs and sharing common facilities.

The Neda, however, has been ordered by the Macapagal administration to have a direct hand in making the IPP leaner and more focused. Neda has previously moved to reducing the number of investment areas in the 2001 IPP. Although Neda is currently part of the joint review committee led by BOI, it is reportedly eyeing to take over the IPP listing responsibility next year.

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Corporate RP's crown jewel on the line in SMC showdown

(From page B1)

San Miguel comptroller Ferdinand Constantino said management opted to invest in a new company instead of tapping third-party providers or buying new aircraft because the former posed questions on safety and reliability while the alternative was deemed costly to the company.

Cojuangco perfunctorily inhibited himself from the voting because his holding firm, ECJ, would own 18 percent of Challenger Aero. The board approved the $9.3-million acquisition of a 64-percent stake in Challenger Aero to be partly financed by the $8.5 million in proceeds from the sale of the jet and helicopters.

Although the board minutes cited Subic Air—the charter line that ferried jailed President Estrada during his provincial sorties—as having an 18-percent interest in Challenger Aero, its owner, Jose Ch. Alvarez, denied having any stake in the company. "Challenger Aero leases out our hangar in Subic," Alvarez said.

In a statement, San Miguel said the old aircraft was sold for safety reasons and the proceeds were used to buy replacement units through a wholly owned subsidiary of the company.

Australian Jockey Club

The government is also questioning San Miguel's decision to undertake a multimillion-dollar campaign that includes the staging of "the most expensive horse racing deal in the Southern Hemisphere" to make Pale Pilsen a mainstream brand in Australia's $5-billion beer market.

The government sees this as a big gamble considering imported beer brands such as San Miguel account for only one percent of the Australian market currently dominated by Foster's (56 percent) and Lion Nathan (42 percent). San Miguel Beer has been in Australia for the last 20 years and its main clients are the Philippine and Chinese markets there.

In a directors' meeting on May 5, 1999, Galang informed the board that San Miguel had entered into a five-year contract with the Australian Jockey Club of Sydney, Australia's pioneering race organization, for exclusive San Miguel Beer sponsorship rights to two race tracks.

Galang said San Miguel also entered into a contract with William Inglis and Sons Ltd., a leading breeder of thoroughbreds in Australia, for San Miguel to sponsor seven yearling sales in Australia. Both contracts had five-year terms that began in January 2000 with a renewal option.

Galang said "the twin sponsorship would boost brand recognition for beer and position San Miguel Beer to invite trial and build brand loyalty through association with thoroughbred racing."

The sponsorship deals had the backing of Cojuangco, a devoted thoroughbred breeder and racing enthusiast who had been in Australia's racing circuits for the last 25 years and was well-known by galloper fans Down Under for having poured in millions into buying some of the highest-priced yearlings sold in Australia and New Zealand. Cojuangco set the record for Southern Hemisphere's most expensive yearling by paying A$2.8 million for a Zabeel colt in a Karaka auction last year.

Cojuangco is a prized member of the Australian Jockey Club and owner of Gooree Pastoral Co., one of the major influences in Australian racing, and a horse-breeding farm in Australia.

Australian news media estimated that San Miguel shored up the Australian Jockey Club's coffers by A$25 million to A$30 million for the five-year sponsorship deal that led to the staging of the A$8-million Doncaster Derby, the biggest prize money in Australia's racing books.

In a statement, San Miguel said the "sponsorship in the Australian Jockey Club is for $2.5 million. In our business, this is the fastest and most effective way to establish the San Miguel name in that country, where horseracing is the most popular sport."

San Miguel, which replaced Lion Nathan for exclusive rights to sell beer at Randwick, is expected to sell up to 400,000 liters of beer a year in Sydney's premiere racetrack. The Doncaster Derby alone attracted 45,000 horseracing fans.

The lucrative marketing budget for San Miguel Beer, in contrast, was nearly a third of the A$92-million takeover of Tasmanian premium beer group J. Boag & Son last year.

While sales of J. Boag's flagship Premium Lager is growing by 20 percent a year, its market share is not that different from San Miguel's puny share in Australia.

San Miguel reportedly bought Boag to learn the ropes in Australia before it makes a bigger push for its own brands. San Miguel is planning to brew some of its brands at the Tasmanian brewery while selling the J. Boag brands in Singapore and Hong Kong.

San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra

One deal that has sent the government scratching its head is Cojuangco's proposal to make a cultural contribution of P100 million annually to organize a San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and San Miguel Chorale Group.

Cojuangco made the proposal during a board meeting on Dec. 7, 2000, when the Senate impeachment trial of President Estrada was in full swing. The minutes showed that Cojuangco lawyer Gabriel Villareal suggested that the company establish a foundation to make the donation more tax-efficient.

The board dutifully approved the budgetary allocation of "P100 million to organize and, thereafter, a yearly contribution of at least the same amount to the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and San Miguel Philharmonic Group." This will be included in the company's public relations budget.

In its reply to the INQUIRER's query, San Miguel said: "Any major private corporation has a social responsibility, and we have chosen the performing arts as the field in which we want to contribute our share to society."

The company said it formed the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts to be headed by Ryan Cayabyab and this would be "fully liquidating in the next few years." It claimed the foundation would allow San Miguel to put together a world class orchestra that would showcase Filipino talent, San Miguel and the country.

Pac-Man

During the Marcos years, Cojuangco was called "Pac-Man" because of his acquisitive nature in the corporate world, just like in the hit arcade game where a player gobbles up all pellets while evading ghosts.

So when he took control of San Miguel, the food and beverage giant was widely expected to be at the center of a mergers-and-acquisitions mania in the last few years.

San Miguel had raised over a billion dollars barely three months since Cojuangco took office with the sale of its 45-percent stake for $670 million and Coca-Cola Beverages Europe for $555 million. But in his two-and-a-half years in office, investors were disappointed because Cojuangco had not pulled the trigger on any major acquisition except for the J. Boag and Sugarland purchases.

In February this year, the San Miguel board approved several corporate deals worth P70 billion. Now that it was ready to use its cash hoard, management was accused by one of the company's new directors, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia, as "rushing major investment and divestment decisions."

These were San Miguel's takeover of Coca-Bottlers Philippines Inc. from Coca-Cola Amatil; management's decision to sell its non-liquor business (water and juice) of La Tondeña Distillers Inc. to The Coca-Cola Co. of Atlanta; its pending offer to acquire 93.26 percent of Pure Foods Corp; and its assumption of P643 million worth of debts of San Miguel Campo Carne even though it only owns half of the company.

Garcia's opposition to these deals was contained in his proxy solicitation form as part of the government's desire to add one more seat to the two seats held by the government pension funds and the five held by the Presidential Commission on Good Government's representatives.

The flurry of deals made by San Miguel from Feb. 1 to March 15 this year were also cited in the Office of the Secretary General's petition with the Supreme Court to compel five nominees of former President Joseph Estrada, including his brother-in-law, to the San Miguel board to vacate their posts in favor of the government's new representatives.

The move is just the first step in the Macapagal administration's drive to regain control of San Miguel's 15-member board. The government's ultimate goal is to oust Cojuangco from the top post.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo said that based so far on documents forwarded by the company's management, San Miguel, under Cojuangco, was not unlike the Philippine government under Estrada.

"Just because you won a landslide victory does not give you the right to plunder the nation's coffers. That is no excuse to steal from the company. Even if you make good decision which earns a lot of profits, you should only get what is due to you and nothing more," Marcelo said.

Marcelo stressed that the review of San Miguel's performance since mid-1998 was in line with the government's duty to protect sequestered shares in San Miguel until the court decides on their beneficial owner.

The shares account for 48 percent of the company—21 percent representing shares owned by Cojuangco and those he bought from Enrique Zobel, and 27 percent representing the shares acquired by the Coconut Industry Investment Fund from the Soriano family in the early 1980s.

Garcia said he had asked concerned officials to enlighten him on these deals, but he claimed they had been "uncooperative." He said the "code of silence" adopted by San Miguel's top management underscored the lack of transparency in running the corporation.

San Miguel, however, claimed it had forwarded all documents that Garcia had requested. Management defended these deals by stating that the petition did not question the validity of these transactions nor did it seek to restrain the company from pursuing them. It maintained that these transactions were thoroughly evaluated by independent legal and financial advisers.

Coke buy-back

On the Coke deal, the government is questioning why the board agreed to swap its 21-percent interest in Coca-Cola Amatil for a 65-percent interest in Coke Philippines at A$4.75 a share when only one-and-a-half-years ago, Cojuangco turned down a A$5.28 a share offer for the same shares.

In the minutes of its board meeting on Sept. 28, 1999, Cojuangco reported that San Miguel would not push through with the sale of its Coca-Cola Amatil shares because "the closing price of A$5.28 does not reflect the long-term fundamental value of the shares."

"Demand was weak and there was no benefit to sell the shares in part as the value of any balance thereof will be eroded," Cojuangco said, noting that the disposition was consistent with the company's rationale to divest its holdings in companies where it had passive interest similar to the sale of San Miguel's Coca-Cola Bottlers Europe and Nestle Philippines Inc.

In justifying the sale, management noted it was buying back control of Coke Philippines for A$2.2 billion, or a 33- to 44-percent discount to the A$3.3 billion to A$3.9 billion the company got when the stake was sold during Soriano's term in 1997.

However, management admitted it would pay a 20- to 30-percent premium for regaining control of Coke Philippines compared to comparable transactions in the Philippines such as Sugarland and Wilkins.

Management claimed the premium was justifiable considering Coke's brand value, the size of the franchise—the Philippines is Coke's sixth largest market in the world—and structure of the deal. The Amatil shares would have fetched less than A$4 had it been sold to institutional investors.

San Miguel's adviser to the deal, ABN Amro, said Coke provided a "high-growth, turnaround opportunity," and it had a better growth potential for profit margins than its beer division.

Part of this deal is the acquisition by Coke Atlanta, which will take a 35-percent interest in Coke Philippines, of La Tondeña's water and juice businesses, and Royal Tru-Orange brands for $141 million.

Unlike the Coke Philippines and Pure Foods deals, the sale of La Tondeña's non-liquor business had been jeered by stock analysts who felt that the company was giving away a business with better long-term growth potential than the mature liquor market. The water and juice brands were acquired initially to smoothen La Tondeña's cyclical liquor business.

San Miguel claimed that the sale of the non-liquor business would provide La Tondeña with cash to buy rivals in the liquor business—probably Lucio Tan's Tanduay Rhum—which could lead to greater efficiencies.

Another transaction under scrutiny is San Miguel's decision to sell its 50-percent equity in San Miguel Campocarne Corp. to Campofrio Alimentacion SA for P300 million net of its P300-million share in the company's debt.

In the minutes, San Miguel said it would use the proceeds to relaunch the products using its own brands through tolling operations and building more facilities; to partially offset investments and losses; and, to look for a stronger partner.

San Miguel had previously threatened to file a suit against Campofrio for reneging on its commitment under their joint-venture agreement to buy out

San Miguel Campofrio recently agreed to transfer all its 50-percent share to San Miguel, including Campocarne's facilities.

The GSIS' Garcia also wants management to bare the details of the planned agro-industrial estate project, which will entail P2.4 billion to P2.8 billion in property acquisitions alone.

On Feb. 24, 2000, management told the board that the complex, billed as the logistics and trade hub of Southeast Asia, would be built over 800-hectares in two phases.

She said the project would be bankrolled "from internally generated funds and sale of idle assets such as the B-Meg property for P450 million and other assets of P1.2 billion to P1.5 billion." The minutes did not show which properties would be sold.

Another project being reviewed by the government is San Miguel's plan to invest up to P5 billion in a logistics company where transactions would be done online.

In its Oct. 23, 2000 meeting, San Miguel corporate finance senior vice president Ferdinand Constantino said the project would have 30 portside and 15 inland logistics centers that would make deliveries for all materials and goods, from agricultural to pharmaceutical.

He said San Miguel would recover its investment in 10 years. Cojuangco said the logistics project would not service San Miguel's rivals. *(To be continued)*

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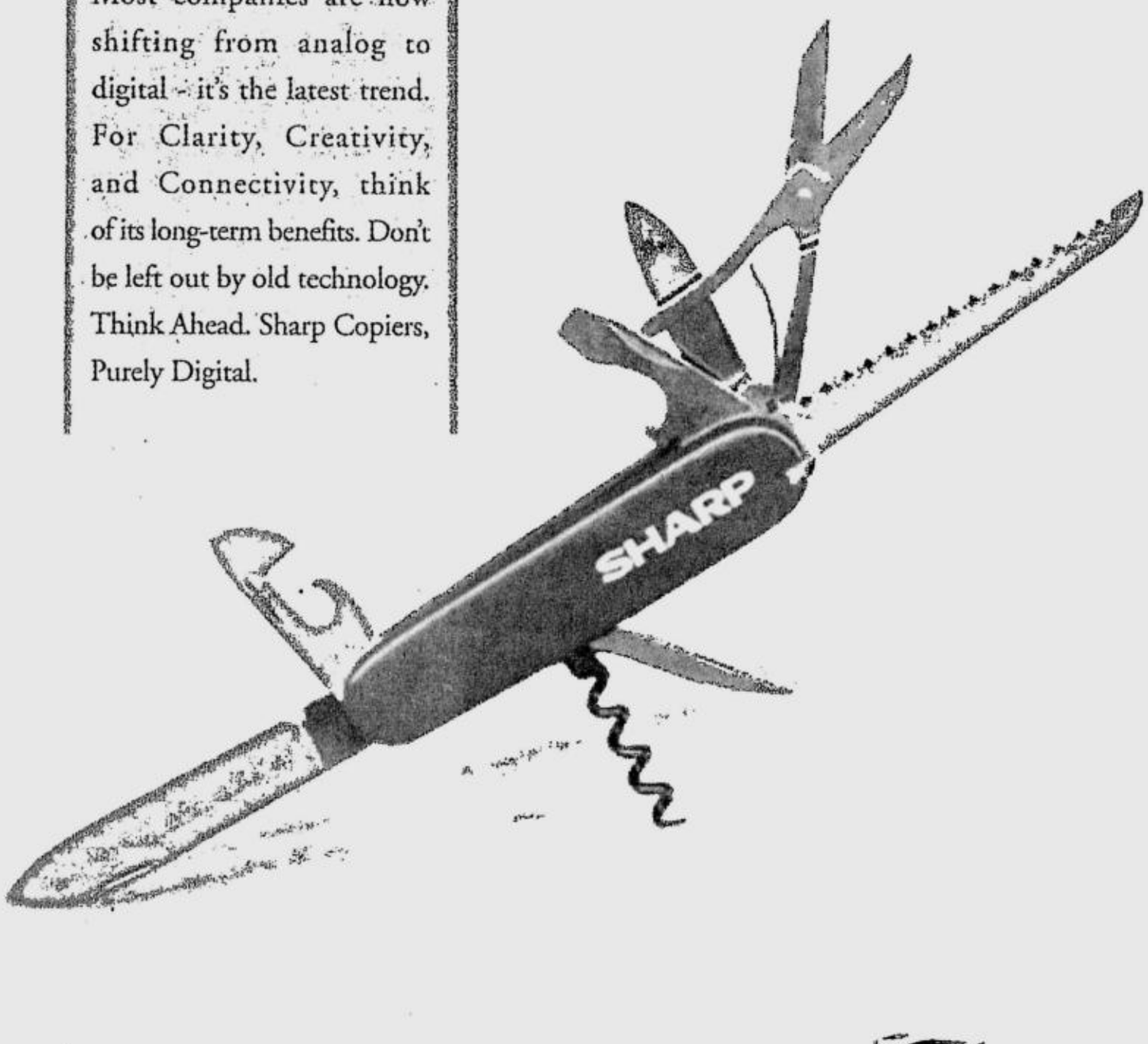

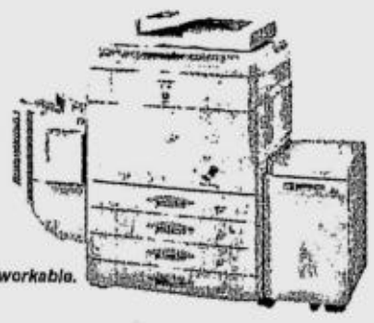

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Metro Pacific to raise $90M to repay debt

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

PUBLICLY listed Metro Pacific Corp. plans to raise at least $90 million in fresh funds from the international capital markets by the end of the year to repay part of the loans extended by its parent company, First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong.

MPC was hard pressed to raise cash as the $90-million debt, a bridge loan used to repay $88 million in maturing convertible bonds, was scheduled for payment by the end of the year.

MPC chief financial officer Grant Ferguson said MPC started talking to banks earlier this year to raise cash, but interest rates were "ridiculously high" as investors remained cautious about the Philippines.

"Hopefully by the second half, we'll have better capital markets and we'll raise the money on Metro Pacific's balance sheet in order to repay First Pacific," he said.

Ferguson also disclosed that Metro Pacific would spend P2.5 billion for capital expenditures, of which 60 percent would be used to finance the development of its Bonifacio Global City through subsidiary Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

The balance would be used by other MPC subsidiaries such as shipping firm Negros Navigation Co., Landco Pacific Corp. and 1st E-Bank.

Ferguson said the capital expenditure budget would be internally generated by the operating companies.

"Our mandate to subsidiaries is they will not be funded by the head office. If they have to undertake capital expenditures, they need to go out and raise that money on their own," Ferguson said.

In a presentation during the company's annual stockholders meeting last week, MPC president Ricardo Pascua said MPC would focus on projects that could provide short-term revenue and cash flow.

MPC, he said, would double efforts to create critical mass and increase business activity at the Bonifacio Global City, which has seen a sharp decline in traffic in the area over the past year.

The ambitious Bonifacio Global City real estate development represents the core development project of MPC, which has transformed itself from a conglomerate into a focused real estate development company.

The 214-hectare property is considered the biggest urban renewal project in Asia. Six major residential projects are in full swing: Essensa, Pacific Plaza Towers, the Manila Golf Crest, Conservatorium, One McKinley Place, and the Regent Parkway.

Major corporations such as Sunlife of Canada, Asian Sources Media Group of Hong Kong and Pioneer Insurance have also decided to relocate their offices inside Fort Bonifacio.

WEARING factory garb, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II (left) inspects a radio frequency chip for cell phones at the plant of Philips Semiconductors Philippines Inc. in Cabuyao, Laguna. Philips employs some 4,000 workers and supplies radio frequency chips to global manufacturers of cellular phones such as Nokia of Finland. With Roxas was Georges Bobin (center), general manager of PSPI Cabuyao Discrete Semiconductors Plant.

PCCI calls for zero tariff on raw materials by 2002

THE INFLUENTIAL Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry has recommended that tariff on raw and semi-processed materials that are not produced locally be removed by 2002.

Donald Dee, PCCI vice president for industry, said in a statement that the reduction in tariff rates would help enhance the competitiveness of Philippine manufacturers.

"This would reduce the cost of production for manufacturers and balance the effects of recent interest rate hikes and the high energy and transport costs in the country. Without such measures, some of these manufacturers would be forced to close down and lay off workers," Dee said.

The proposed tariff reduction was one of the measures that the PCCI wanted included in the updated Medium Term Philippine Development Plan.

The second proposal was to relax credit policies to spur manufacturing growth until such a time as the economy sufficiently recovers.

"Figures show that despite the rise in domestic liquidity, there has been no growth in credit because of the strict prudential measures which act as hindrances to the credit channels. There is a need to correct the mismatch between the needs of a growing economy and the overly strict prudential measures," PCCI president Miguel Varela said.

"Addressing these bottlenecks will jumpstart the Philippines on the road to economic recovery by addressing the barriers to the competitiveness of Philippine firms. These will reduce the cost of doing business and the enhancement of credit access to small and medium enterprises," Varela added.

The PCCI recently submitted its comments to the National Economic Development Authority which was currently drafting the Industry and Services Chapter of the MTPDP 2001-2004.

Among the proposals the PCCI endorsed were the immediate passage of the computerization of the Bureau of Customs and the Electric Industry Reform Act (Eira).

The Eira hopes to address the high cost of electricity that is considered a deterrent to investments in power-intensive projects.

The computerization of the BoC, on the other hand, would improve database updating, systems security and facilitate Customs clearance procedures.

The PCCI also concurred with the policy of enhancing competition in government ports as stipulated in the draft chapter, the first step of which was to privatize the North Harbor and bid it out to two operators.

"This may be one of the flagship projects of the Macapagal administration. It would be a sure sign that it is serious in integrating the provinces into the hub of economic activity. The high rate of return makes North Harbor an attractive investment opportunity for local and foreign investors," Dee said.

Tañada urges gov't to get 8 SMC seats

LUCENA CITY–Quezon Rep. Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada, senatorial candidate of the People Power Coalition (PPC), is calling on the government to spare no effort in getting back the majority of seats in the San Miguel Corp. (SMC) board.

Tañada said the 27-percent sequestered shares bought with the coconut levy money was equivalent to five seats, but the government needs three more seats to be in the majority.

"Government must be able to wrest majority seats in the 15-member SMC board, since this will bring us closer to the goal of making the coco levy funds truly serve the interest of the real owners—the small coconut farmers—instead of generating income for dubious owners," Tañada said in a phone interview.

The ongoing corporate struggle at the SMC has pitted the government against the combined forces of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and former President Joseph Estrada's appointees.

The five Estrada appointees have so far refused to give up their seats.

The Office of the Solicitor General has filed a case before the Supreme Court to force their ouster.

Tañada also said that the Government Service Insurance System has filed its own case before the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court, demanding that it be given at least one seat on the SMC board.

"I am glad that the GSIS has obtained enough proxy votes for it to get another board seat and a half, equivalent to its more than 7-percent shareholdings at the SMC," Tañada said.

"The Social Security System is also entitled to one seat for its 5-percent shareholdings, getting us closer to the magic number," he added.

Meanwhile, the coalition of peasant organizations in Quezon, mostly composed of coconut farmers, urged the more than 25 million Filipino dependents on the coconut industry to vote as one bloc for national candidates that could serve as their partners in the struggle for the return of the coconut levy.

"But we should be wary, for we have had enough of false and empty promises and pretension from among our government officials. What we need now from these candidates is their declared commitment to be with us in our struggle to regain what really belongs to us," he said.

Cerilla said the millions of coconut farmers' families are suspecting that they will again be taken for a ride via the "judicial and corporate mumbo jumbo" route that is being pursued by the present administration. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Sharp dealers gross ₱3.05B despite economic downturn

DESPITE economic uncertainties, Sharp Philippines Corp. racked up sales of P3.05 billion last year, a 2.8-percent increase over the previous year's sales of P2.97 billion.

This was announced by Sharp president and general manager Shigeo Kashimi and AVP Koji Domoto during the recently held 2001 Dealer Convention.

Top sellers were color television sets, P1.16 billion; washing machines, P776.21 million; refrigerators, P122.66 million; karaokes, P260.6 million; audio/mini-components, P443.87 million; and air-conditioners, P115.24 million.

Domoto attributed Sharp's robust sales to the aggressive local promotions implemented by the dealers; the healthy spending of families with disposable incomes coming from dollar remittances of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs); and the company's high-quality image which has been bolstered by its latest technological innovations.

"Sharp's innovative 1-bit audio technology can now be enjoyed in our latest 1-bit component systems and we continue to pursue our excellence in LCD and digital products," said Domoto.

"To further build our equity in the aircon market, we have new split-type aircons with magic display indicators together with our latest line of premium super quiet window-type aircons. We now have direct-cooling refrigerators with spacious freezers and ductflow feature. All these, together with our leading products such as color televisions, washing machines and other lines, will surely give us the edge and provide our customers quality products that can only come from Sharp,"' Domoto added.

Sharp also recognized its top dealers during the convention. Heading the list was Gillamac's Marketing Inc. of Cebu City, the company's top dealer for seven years in a row, followed by Paluwagan Marketing Inc. of Calamba, Laguna. Abenson Inc. was ranked third last year.

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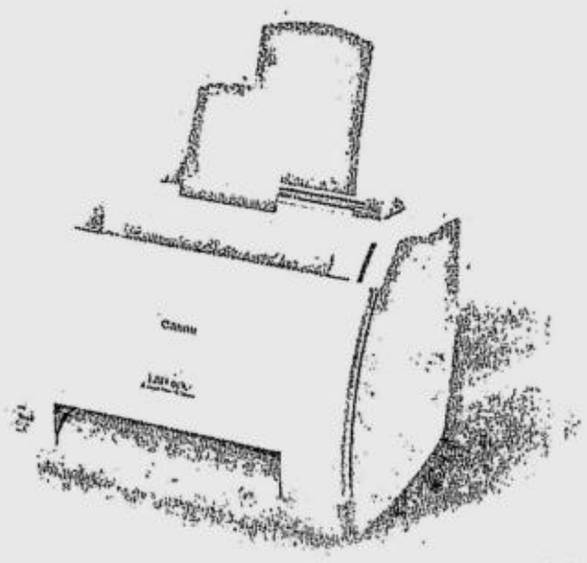

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MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
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MALACAÑANG PALACE MANILA

My warmest greetings to the entire Website Account Owner community of Prosperity.com, Incorporated, for making the company we built together into becoming the website-hosting and Web-marketing phenomenon in the country today. With the inauguration of our new office at the Philippine Stock Exchange Tower (signifying our formal entry into the big leagues of Philippine e-commerce, e-marketing, and e-education), we in the leadership of our company is heartened. Not least because after only a year of establishing ourselves in the Philippines, thanks to you, already around fifty thousand individuals are Website Account Owners! With this promise of a big future for our collective venture, a company like Prosperity.com can rightfully claim that its operational and product quality standards will face up to a challenge of world-class expectations. With a company like Prosperity.com, the entire nation sees a step in the right direction for e-business in our country, and we are looking at this new economy's coming to par with its counterparts in the global market. Indeed, this is the way to go for any new industry to grow. With boldness and vision, and most of all a large hope for the future. To the men and women of Prosperity.com, my personal sincere congratulations and best wishes for continuing success.

Mabuhay!

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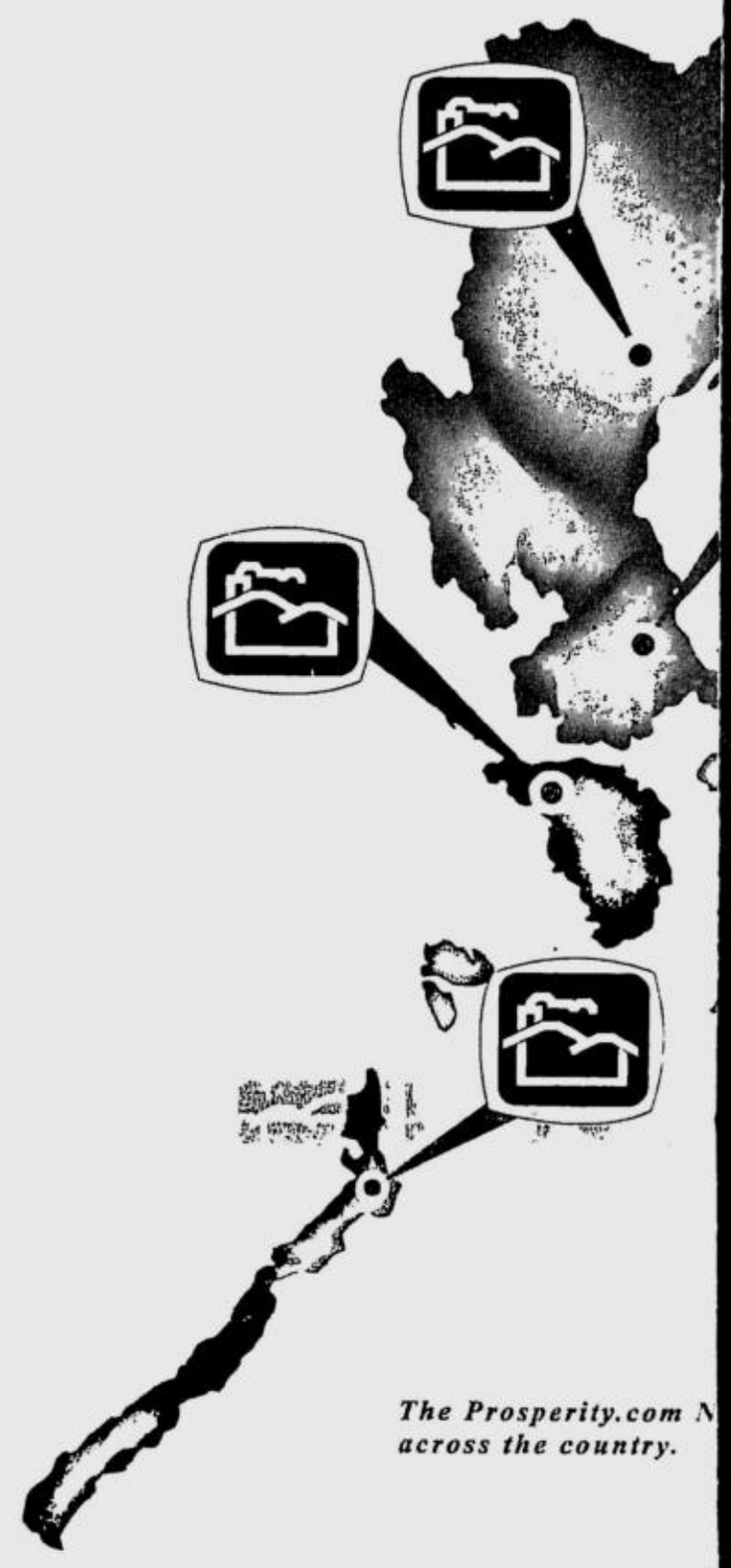

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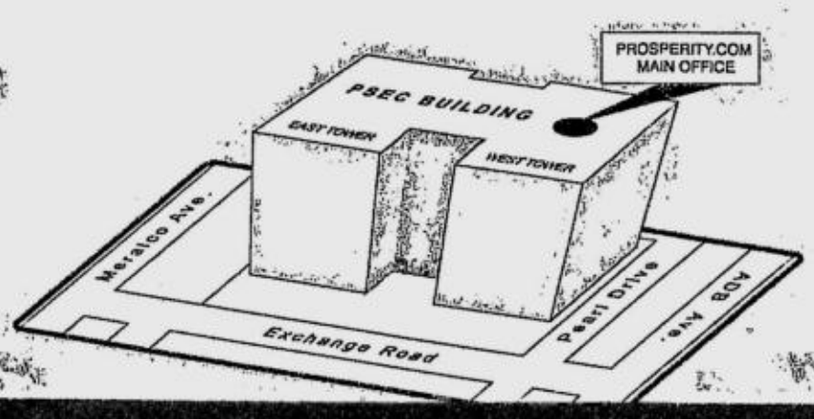

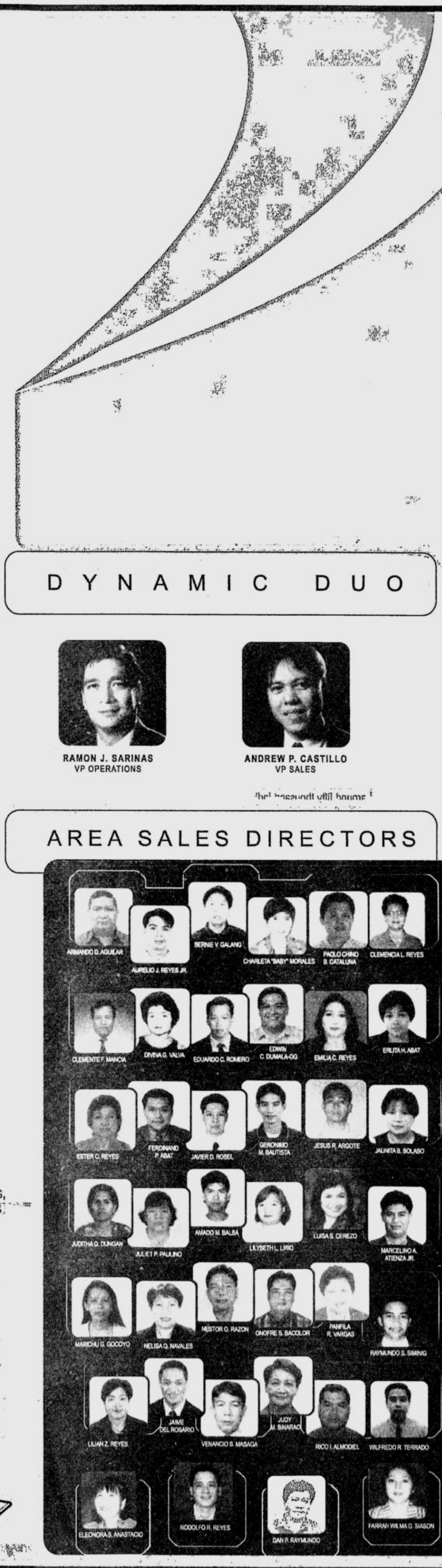

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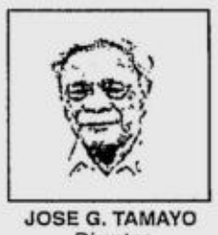
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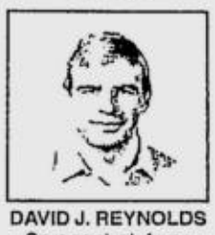
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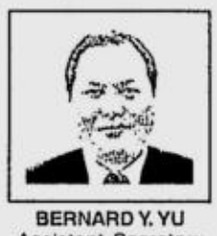
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US ECONOMY

GDP picks up, expansion completes year 10

WASHINGTON—The US economy gained surprising momentum in the first quarter, boosted by stronger consumer spending as the United States completed a record 10th year of unbroken expansion, the government said Friday.

The Commerce Department said gross domestic product, the broadest measure of national economic activity, increased at a stronger-than-expected 2-percent annual rate, accelerating from one percent in the closing quarter last year, when the economy was edging ahead at its most sluggish pace in 5 1/2 years.

Businesses pared back their inventories by $7.1 billion at the beginning of 2001—the first time since 1991 that they did not add to them—in a sign of progress at clearing out bloated stocks of unsold goods.

One potentially worrisome indication was a pickup in prices. A closely watched inflation gauge rose at a 3.3-percent rate that was well ahead of the fourth quarter's 1.9 percent.

The first quarter GDP performance handily outstripped Wall Street economists' forecasts for a 1.1-percent growth rate. It reinforced the impression that the world's No. 1 economy, while growing more slowly, would escape recession and suggested the Federal Reserve's aggressive interest rate cutting campaign was keeping vital consumer spending buoyant.

Dollar jumps, bonds weaken

The US dollar jumped against other currencies on the signs of the United States' economic resilience, but bond prices weakened for fear that higher prices might reduce chances for more US interest rate cuts ahead.

Still, most of the reaction was positive.

"This number is gratifying because it tells us that we had a little bit of momentum that could carry on," said economist Carl Tannenbaum of Lasalle Bank in Chicago.

National output has grown steadily since the end of a brief nine-month recession from mid-1990 to March 1991, a record period of growth that has generated tens of thousands of new jobs and helped generate new wealth from rising incomes and stronger stock prices.

"I think it's positive for stocks in that consumer spending showed continued growth, we saw a dramatic draw-down in inventories and, overall, this is not a recession-type number," said economist Mickey Levy of Bank of America in New York.

"The largest contributor to the step-up in GDP was an upturn in consumer spending for goods," the Commerce Department said. Consumer spending, which fuels two-thirds of national economic activity, grew at a rate of 3.1 percent after a 2.8-percent pace of advance the final three months of 2000.

Spending on costly durable goods like new cars and furniture jumped to an 11.9-percent rate of growth—the strongest quarterly pace in a year—a sharp reversal from the fourth quarter when this spending contracted 3.1 percent.

While the 2-percent rate of GDP growth in the first quarter was a sharp improvement from over the fourth quarter, it was still well below the level a year earlier, in the first quarter of 2000, when the economy steamed ahead at a 4.8-percent rate.

Fed cuts bear fruit

Cheaper interest rates have made it easier for consumers to finance items like new cars, while a still-healthy housing industry has meant sturdy demand for furniture and other goods like appliances. Mortgage rates have stayed relatively low, influenced by the Fed's slashing of short-term rates, and so helped keep a floor under construction and sales of homes.

The US central bank has cut interest rates four times since the start of the year, a full two percentage points in four equal installments. The Fed has recently highlighted its concern that businesses may become reluctant to keep up new investment, but the GDP report shows a relatively healthy performance during the first quarter.

The unemployment rate has risen from a 30-year low of 3.9 percent late last year to 4.3 percent and is expected to keep climbing as Americans filed for jobless benefits at the fastest rate in nearly nine years.

The economy shed more jobs in March than in any other month in nearly a decade. The Labor Department this week will release its key employment report for April.

The University of Michigan's current conditions index, which measures Americans' assessments of the economy's present state, tumbled sharply to 98 from 103.4 in March. *Reuters*

US consumer confidence slides in April

NEW YORK—Americans' confidence in their economic future soured sharply in April after steadying in March, casting doubt on whether a rebound in consumer spending in the first three months of 2001 would be sustained in the second quarter.

The University of Michigan's April final consumer sentiment index slid to 88.4 in April from 91.5 in March as job insecurity frayed nerves even as Wall Street stocks showed some stability after a year of steep losses.

The report came hot on the heels of news that the economy showed a surprising spurt of growth in the first quarter, helped by a pickup in the pace of consumer spending.

The government reported the economy expanded at a 2-percent annual rate after a meager one percent in the fourth quarter of 2000.

"Confidence remains at its lowest level in a number of years, and that indicates that even though consumer spending grew nicely in the first quarter, it should moderate significantly in the second quarter," said Carol Stone, deputy chief economist at Nomura Securities International.

The final Michigan report marked a slight improvement from a preliminary reading of 87.8 released two weeks ago before the Federal Reserve surprised markets with its fourth cut in short-term interest rates this year.

But the April drop still left the index near its lowest level in more than seven years.

The drop in confidence had little impact on financial markets, which were cheering earlier signs of the economy's stronger-than-expected momentum in the first quarter.

The renewed gloom on Main Street in April hinges on a darkening employment outlook even as the Fed has aggressively cut interest rates to revive the economy and battered Wall Street stocks have shown tentative signs of recovery.

"The key here is not the stock market or the Fed cutting rates. The problem is job cuts, and as long as those continue, we won't see an improvement in sentiment," Kevin Flanagan, a fixed-income strategist at Morgan Stanley, said. *Reuters*

Surprising GDP does not signal end to woes

WASHINGTON—A surprisingly strong report showing US economic growth at an annualized 2-percent pace in the first quarter defied doomsayers but did not signal the US economy was out of the woods, economists said.

Friday's Commerce Department report, its first estimate of gross domestic product growth, was far stronger than foreseen by most Wall Street analysts, who had been predicting one percent growth—the same pace as the fourth quarter of 2000.

The acceleration in the first quarter was led by consumer spending. Government spending and business and residential construction also contributed to growth.

The report dampened any speculation that the US economy was sliding into a recession.

"Two-percent growth represents improvement and confirms the fundamentals of our economy are sound," Commerce Secretary Don Evans said.

But analysts were quick to point out that the growth figures masked signs of weakness and should not dissuade the Federal Reserve from further interest rate cuts.

"The US slowdown is the deepest since the 1990-91 recession, and has spread well beyond the manufacturing sector, prompting a sustained rise in unemployment," said Kermit Schoenholtz of Salomon Smith Barney.

"Consumer spending has held up, but it is likely to slow as joblessness rises through the summer."

The GDP was helped by a strong 3.1-percent growth rate in consumer spending—but capital spending by US companies was falling, which was an ominous sign.

Economist Henry Willmore of Barclays Capital said Fed Chair Alan Greenspan might have been aware of the falloff in investment, especially in technology, in pressing for aggressive action on rate cuts.

"Actually, there may be a hint in the details of this report about why Greenspan was feeling such a sense of urgency" in cutting rates, Willmore said.

"Investment in computers and peripheral equipment fell at an annualized rate of 30.6 percent in nominal terms. Now this is still a relatively small part of the economy but we think it looms large in the thinking of Greenspan, who after all has a significant psychic investment in the whole 'new economy' concept.

"A 30-percent contraction in an industry that has become used to 30 percent growth must appear to be nothing short of catastrophic."

"The rise was better than expected, but I would still not call it a great report for the economy," said Mike Moran, chief economist at Daiwa Securities America in New York.

Moran noted that the trade deficit was a smaller drag on first quarter GDP, and thus contributed positively to the headline number. However, this came from fewer imports, which was simply a reflection of softer domestic demand.

"Also, part of the improvement came from government spending (which) added 0.7 percent to GDP growth," but this was "probably just quarter-to-quarter volatility," and is unlikely to be sustained, Moran said.

"It vastly overstates the health of the US economy," said Mark Vitner, economist at First Union Corp.

"This report confirms what the Fed said (last week) that the risks are now in eroding capital spending," Vitner said.

The rise "won't prevent modest further easing" by the Fed, said Ian Shepherdson, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics.

"The Fed is still scared" about the second and third quarters, he said.

But Vitner and Moran said the Fed is likely to cut rates by a quarter-point next month, and that the strength in the GDP report is likely to dissuade the Fed from another half-point cut. *AFP*

Greenspan confident debt to be paid off

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan predicted on Friday that the United States was likely to see large budget surpluses for some time, enabling it ultimately to pay off the publicly held portion of the national debt.

"While the magnitudes of future federal unified budget surpluses are uncertain, they are highly likely to remain sizable for some time," the central bank chief told the annual convention of The Bond Market Association.

He did not mention the near-term outlook for the US economy, except to note that the current slowdown in growth probably would cause a weak spell for productivity gains.

But he said the long-term trend of fast productivity growth should remain intact, which bodes well for the government's balance sheet.

"Current forecasts suggest that under a reasonably wide range of possible tax and spending policies, the resulting surpluses will allow the treasury debt held by the public to be paid off," Greenspan said.

While financial markets have worried about the potential loss of the US Treasury debt-market, which serves as a benchmark for pricing private sector debt, Greenspan offered reassuring comments about the impact of a dwindling supply of low-risk government debt.

"I am confident that US financial markets, which are the most innovative and efficient in the world, can readily adapt to a paydown of treasury debt by creating private alternatives with many of the attributes that market participants value in Treasury securities," he said.

Greenspan admitted there would likely be transition costs, but said those were likely "to be outweighed by the benefits to the country of a higher capital stock and the resulting increases in productivity and income that appear to be the consequence of debt reduction."

As for potential consequences for the US dollar from the reduced supply of treasury securities—a favorite security for foreign investors—Greenspan also discounted concerns.

"The evidence of the past year and a half gives little support to this notion: Foreign private investors, on net, have run off their holdings of US treasury securities, while they have built up their holdings of private dollar assets by an even larger amount, and the foreign exchange value of the dollar has appreciated."

The Fed chief repeated his concern, which he outlined in detail earlier this year in testimony to Congress, that the government could accumulate large stores of private assets once the debt was paid down.

In that testimony, Greenspan announced his support for tax cuts as means of forestalling a sudden accumulation of private assets, a controversial switch from his previous emphasis on paying down the national debt.

In his remarks to The Bond Market Association, he suggested looking into other options, such as individual savings accounts, for dealing with the need to put aside accumulated surpluses to pay for future retirement program benefits. *Reuters*

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World eco leaders trying to avert recession

WASHINGTON—Financial leaders of the world's richest nations want to prevent the sputtering global economy from toppling into recession and will work on ways to keep that from happening.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan and their counterparts from six other major industrialized nations were confronting thorny issues at their meeting Saturday at Blair House across from the White House.

But one thing the Group of Seven, or G-7, officials apparently won't have to worry about is the huge anti-globalization protests that clogged Washington's streets last spring and resulted in 1,300 arrests.

Temporary steel barricades were in place and police officers were in position as the first demonstrations against the economic policies of the World Bank and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, got under way Friday.

About 25 demonstrators picketed near the headquarters of the two institutions in the first of what they have billed as "militant but nonviolent" protests that culminate with a two-hour rally Sunday.

As the ministers gathered they received some good news in the form of better-than-expected growth rates in the United States, the world's largest economy, in the first quarter of 2001.

Among the most pressing concerns at the G-7 meeting is Japan, the second largest economy, which still is struggling with a decade-long bout of weakness. A new prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, took office this week pledging to clean up the country's troubled banking system.

But if he moves too abruptly Japan runs the risk of falling into a recession at a time when the rest of the world's economies are slowing, a situation the ministers and bank governors want to correct.

Continuing financial problems in Turkey and Argentina have renewed worries of spreading financial instability among developing nations. A new $10-billion IMF rescue package for Turkey is expected to be completed over the weekend and Argentinian officials will hold talks with IMF officials on their economic difficulties.

There is also a controversy over whether the European Central Bank should cut interest rates to help speed a global recovery. The bank left them unchanged earlier this week. This move drew criticism from the IMF, which said they should have reduced them a month ago.

Wim Duisenberg, the head of the bank in the 10-nation euro zone, is expected to tell the United States and other G-7 partners that the bank's main job is to control inflation. It has been running above the targeted ceiling of 2 percent so the European bankers felt they had to leave interest rates alone.

Previewing the talks Friday, O'Neill said the administration believed the United States was doing its part to guard against a global downturn with the Federal Reserve's aggressive easing of interest rates and by President George W. Bush's efforts to get congressional approval for across-the-board tax cuts.

He said Japan and Europe need to pitch in as well, although he did not specify what policies they should pursue.

"I attach tremendous importance to strong and balanced growth in the context of interdependent US, European and Japanese economies," O'Neill said in a statement. "A healthy global economy requires all of us to perform to our full potential."

The IMF earlier this week issued a gloomy assessment of economic prospects, slashing its forecast for global growth this year to just 3.2 percent, the slowest performance since the 1997-98 Asian currency crisis. The fund cut its projection for US growth to just 1.5 percent and said Japan would grow by just 0.6 percent.

However, a report Friday said the US economy grew at an annual rate of 2 percent in the first three months of this year, double the expected rate and a performance that O'Neill called "nothing but good news." *AP*

IMF says Argentina taking right measures to recovery

WASHINGTON—Argentina was taking the right measures to recover from economic crisis, IMF managing director Horst Koehler said here Friday.

And neighboring Brazil, a major trading partner, had the strength to weather any fallout, he added.

"There is no doubt that there is some concern about the situation in Argentina but I think everything is in place to find a good solution to overcome the problems," Koehler told a news conference.

Argentina has been mired in a 33-month recession, and its debt burden has soared to $128 billion—almost 50 percent of annual gross domestic product.

Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo's approach was right, the International Monetary Fund boss said, praising in particular his plan to improve competitiveness.

"He has said that the program with the IMF has to be put back on track, that the fiscal targets have to be put back on track, and we agree," the IMF director said.

In December last year, the IMF arranged an overall loan package for Argentina worth $39.7 billion, to which other multilateral, bilateral and private creditors contributed.

But Argentina failed by a wide margin to meet IMF fiscal targets.

Cavallo, who took over his post last month, has said he will not be seeking extra money.

"We think the way out is close," said the IMF chief.

"I will meet with him tomorrow, we will discuss the fiscal measures to be taken to bring the program on track," he added.

"What I have heard from my staff on a provisional basis is that there is going to be a positive outcome but I will have to wait."

Koehler said Argentina was right to stick to its convertibility law and currency board, under which a peso was worth a dollar, with each peso backed by dollar reserves.

Cavallo said this month he would soon present to Congress a bill that would peg the Argentine peso not only to the US dollar but also to the euro, so as to provide more stable prices.

He has said such a move would be made once the euro's value was close to one dollar.

"I must say I am still a strong believer in a good role of the euro in the long run but that has nothing to do with this issue of Argentina," Koehler said.

"I think and my working assumption is absolutely clear: there is a convertiblity law, there is a currency board. We base our cooperation, our advice, based on this framework, nothing else."

Brazil was likely to weather any impact from the Argentinian crisis, the IMF boss said. *AFP*

Strong US presence at IMF, WTO, World Bank sought

WASHINGTON—US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Friday there was a need for strong US leadership at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and at the World Trade Organization.

"I will take every opportunity I have to get the message across to American and foreign audiences alike that in our increasingly globalized world, America's prosperity and well-being are linked ever more closely to expanding growth and stability worldwide," Powell told the annual Bretton Woods Committee gathering of international commerce specialists.

"That is why strong US leadership in the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO is so crucial to America's future and the world's future."

Two institutions created by Bretton Woods in 1944—the World Bank and the IMF—opened their spring meetings Friday.

"Bretton Woods has always been about shaping a better future for the world's people. The IMF and the World Bank were designed to promote a liberating stability, not to preserve a rigid status quo," he said.

Though the Bretton Woods institutions for many years were forced to operate within Cold War restraints, Powell stressed they are not "Cold War relics."

"Globalization, free trade, open markets, the Technology Revolution, economic and political reforms—the potential they hold for humankind is incredible and the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO can help the world's people realize it." *AFP*

Bristol-Meyers named most admired pharma company

BRISTOL-MEYERS Squibb has been named "most admired pharmaceutical company" by Fortune Magazine, a prestigious US-based business magazine.

In winning the award, Bristol-Myers Squibb outscored rival pharmaceutical companies in key criteria, such as product quality, financial soundness, social responsibility, talent and use of assets.

Fortune Magazine conducts its corporate reputations survey annually covering hundreds of leading corporations in major industries.

Bristol-Myers Squibb is one of the leading companies in the field of infectious diseases, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. It is also the fastest growing consumer medicine company and ranks among the largest in the world. Its current line of products includes two of the most widely known brands in the country: Tempra and Squibb Natural Vitamin E.

Bristol-Myers Squibb is one of the leading diversified health and personal care companies in the Philippines, with a reputation for growth, innovation, excellence and a product range of market leaders that include the Mead Johnson line of pediatric and adult nutritionals, Lactum and Sustagen and the multi-vitamin Poly-Vi-Sol.

The company has expanded through external alliances, acquisitions, mergers, licensing arrangements and other business collaborations. But most importantly, they have remained true to their mission: to provide the resources for extending and enhancing human life.

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This is to inform the public that a ***Writ Of Preliminary Injunction*** was issued on ***January 24, 2001*** by ***Hon Floro P. Alejo***, Presiding Judge of the ***Regional Trial Court, Branch 172, National Capital Judicial Region, Valenzuela City, Metro Manila in Civil Case No. 165-V-00*** entitled: ***"Splash Manufacturing Corporation, Plaintiff, versus Robert D. Lim doing under the name and style 'RDL PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORY', Defendant", "to restrain the defendant, his officers, employees, distributors, retailers, agents, representatives or assigns from using Plaintiff's Utility Model Patent No. UM-8471 and from manufacturing, importing into the Philippines, distributing, offering for sale, selling or otherwise dealing in infringing products, particularly RDL Babyface 2 Anti-Acne Depigmenting Agent, directly or indirectly using plaintiff's Utility Model Patent No. UM-8471 pending final determination of this case."***

Any person or entity found violating the said Writ of Preliminary Injunction will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

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New Japan PM faces weakening economy

TOKYO—Deepening deflation, tumbling industrial output and darkening clouds over an already soft jobs market on Friday highlighted the huge task new Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi faces in reviving Japan's ailing economy.

The barrage of figures, released on Koizumi's first full day on the job, showed the world's second largest economy weakening rapidly once again in the absence of domestic demand strong enough to offset the impact of a global high-tech slowdown.

Also in Koizumi's in-tray: reports, later denied, that Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami had offered to resign.

Hayami shot down the Japanese media reports shortly after arriving in Washington for a weekend meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven industrialized countries.

"There has been no change in my feelings about continuing my job until the end of my term as long as my health allows," he said in a short statement issued by the BOJ.

Asked by reporters in Washington whether he had decided to resign, Hayami said, "That is not the case."

Earlier, sources had confirmed the reports that Hayami had offered to quit as early as next week with almost two years of his term still to go at the helm of the central bank.

Speculation had swirled that Koizumi would name someone more willing to follow an aggressive easy-money policy that would soften the blow of long-awaited corporate layoffs and bad-loan write-offs on an already feeble economy.

New Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka reinforced the government's determination to grasp the nettle of reform, saying it was prepared to pay the short-term price of shrinking output to clear the decks for recovery after a decade of dead-slow growth.

"Of course we must go on. In the short term we might see demand decreasing, but we cannot prosper without increasing our long-term potential growth rate," Takenaka said.

In current conditions, radical corporate surgery would be akin to a homeowner replacing his roof during a hurricane.

Industrial production fell 2.1 percent in March, double the decline forecast by economists and leaving output for the first quarter down a whopping 3.7 percent from the October to December period. It was the first drop in seven quarters.

Pretty shocking

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry promptly lowered its assessment of output, saying the trend was declining, and said swelling inventories, which rose 0.7 percent in March after a 1.1 percent jump in February, needed careful monitoring.

"I think it is a pretty shocking figure for the market," said Toshikimi Kaneki, chief economist at Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co.

With manufacturers telling METI that they expect successive output falls of 0.8 percent in April and May, Matthew Poggi of Lehman Brothers said the weak trend was likely to drag on into the second half of the year.

Other data showed Japan's unemployment rate remained at 4.7 percent in March. That was below a recent record high of 4.9 percent, but the number of jobs on offer—a more timely barometer of demand for labor—fell to 61 for every 100 job-seekers from 64 in February.

Ron Bevacqua, chief economist with Commerz Securities, said the end of a worldwide high-tech boom was catching up with Japan's export-dependent manufacturers.

"The whole recovery over the past couple of years was driven by the global cycle, so as the global cycle slows there are no domestic sources of growth and we go right back down."

Farewell, Hayami?

Tokyo-area consumer prices fell 0.8 percent in April from a year earlier, a record 20th consecutive monthly decline. Core prices, which exclude fresh food, fell 0.9 percent.

Nationwide inflation figures, which are published a month later than data for Tokyo, showed core prices slid 0.6 percent in March from a year earlier but edged up 0.1 percent from February.

For the fiscal year that ended in March, the nationwide core consumer price index fell for a record third year in a row, the Ministry of Public Management said. The drop was 0.4 percent.

Underlying prices are being closely watched because the Bank of Japan has said it will maintain the super-loose monetary policy it adopted on March 19, which effectively cut short-term interest rates to zero, until core consumer prices stop falling.

Hayami was the architect of that policy, but he has been widely criticized for reacting too late to the dangers of a vicious circle of falling prices and shrinking demand.

The new policy chief of the dominant Liberal Democratic Party, Taro Aso, made little attempt to dampen speculation that an ex-BOJ deputy governor, Toshihiko Fukui, would replace Hayami.

"I don't think that's a bad choice. That is one option," Aso, who was economics minister until Thursday, said.

Kazuhiko Ogata, a senior economist with HSBC Securities, said financial markets would welcome the choice of Fukui as he was more inclined than Hayami to pursue an easy policy.

One ray of light was a 1.0-percent increase in spending by Japanese wage earners' households in March compared with the same month a year earlier. It was the fourth straight monthly gain.

Personal spending has been quite strong so far this year and should ensure a modest rise in overall gross domestic product for the first three months of 2001.

But spending by wage earners' households for the entire fiscal year that ended on March 31 fell a real 0.4 percent, and economists expect the weak trend to resume as incomes come under pressure from slowing growth.

Reuters

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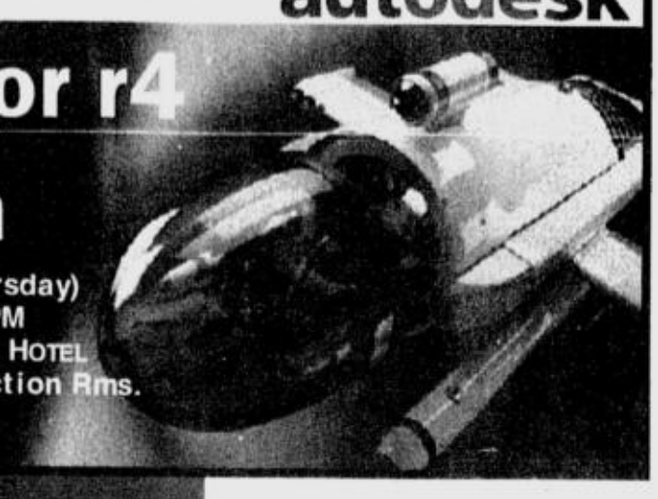

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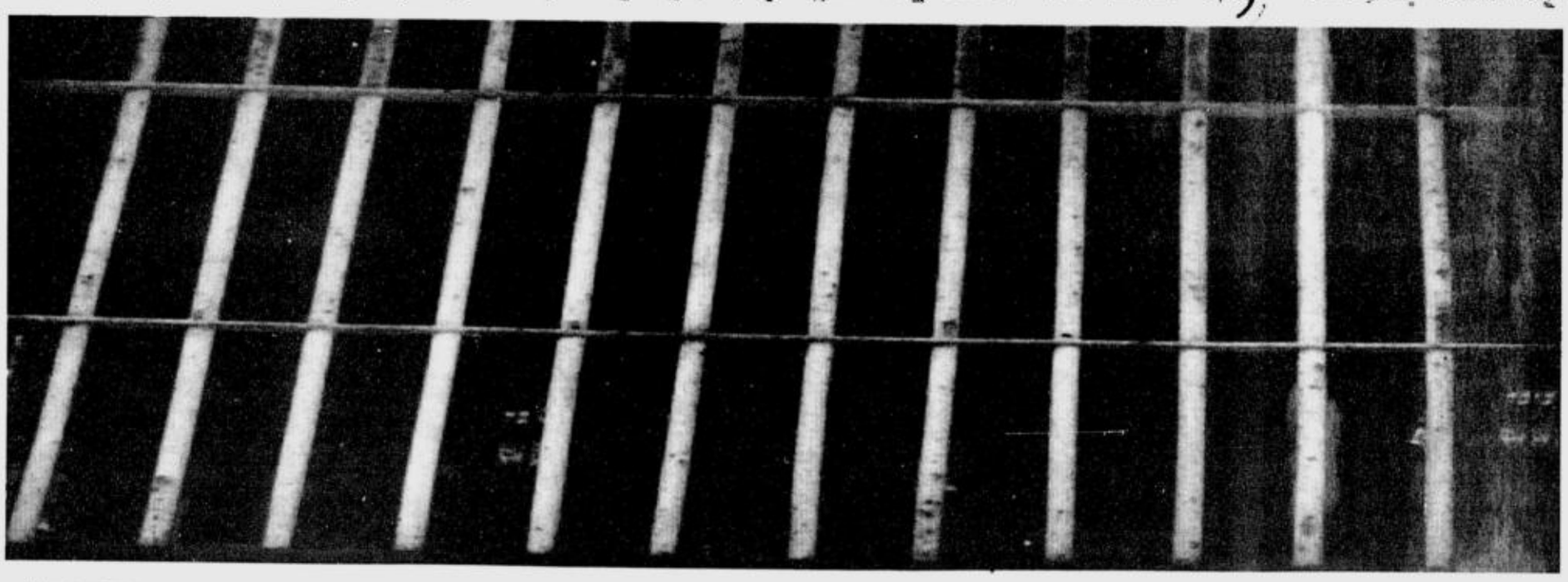

PARUSAHAN.

Sa ilalim ng batas, ang may kasalanan ay pinarurusahan. Sa demokrasya, ang lahat ay pantay-pantay.

Sa Chile, inaresto ang dating Presidente, Gen. Augusto Pinochet. Sa Yugoslavia, inaresto rin si Presidente Slobodan Milosevic. Sa South Korea naman, dalawang Presidente - sina Roh Tae Woo at Chu Doo Hwan - ang ikinulong sa kasong corruption.

Patunay lamang na sa mata ng batas, ang lahat ay pantay-pantay. Walang sinisino.

Pero, bakit pinagtatalunan pa rin kung dapat parusahan o hindi ang napatalsik na Presidente na nahaharap sa 13 kasong kriminal. Kasama sa mga kasong kriminal:

- P500 milyong suhol mula sa mga Jueteng Lord.
- P3.3 bilyon na "unexplained wealth" sa pangalan ni Jose Velarde.
- P150 milyon na "unexplained wealth" sa pagbili ng Boracay Mansion.
- P1.8 bilyon ng SSS at GSIS na ginamit pambili ng shares ng Belle Corporation at Waterfront Hotel.
- Pagbulsa sa P130 milyon Tobacco Excise Tax.
- Graft and Corruption.
- Pagtataksil sa tiwala ng bayan o "betrayal of public trust."
- Sadyang paglabag sa Saligang Batas o "Culpable violation of the Constitution."
- Plunder.

Kailangang harapin at sagutin ng dating Presidente ang mga kaso laban sa kanya sa korte. Utang niya ito sa bayan. Kung may "warrant of arrest," kailangan siyang ikulong dahil isa sa mga kaso laban sa kanya ay "plunder," isang krimen na walang piyansa.

Katungkulan naman ng ating gobyerno na ipatupad ang batas nang pantay-pantay at walang kinikilingan. Ordinaryong mamamayan, mayaman o mahirap o kahit pa dating Presidente, kung may kasalanan, kailangang parusahan.

Sa oras na maipatutupad natin ang batas, babalik na muli ang tiwala ng mamamayan sa kanilang gobyerno. Lalakas ang tiwala ng mga negosyante at mga foreign investor sa ating sistema political. Tataas ang antas ng pagtingin sa atin ng buong mundo. Higit sa lahat, manunumbalik ang respeto natin sa ating sarili bilang Pilipino.

Sa kabilang dako, kung hindi natin maipatutupad ang batas, hihina ang pundasyon ng ating demokrasya. May tinitignan at kinikilingan. May malakas, may mahina.

Pagtatawanan tayo ng buong daigdig. Mawawalan ng tiwala ang mga negosyante at mga foreign investor sa ating sistema pulitika. Mahihirapan na tayong makaahon sa kahirapan. Habambuhay na tayong maghihirap.

Sa kabila ng lahat ng ito, may mga nagsasabi na "kawawa" naman daw ang dating Presidente. Hindi daw dapat parusahan.

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Sikatuna400sm 7.5M 6453731

Sta. Mesa Height Lot 90m² 3BR T&B w/Pkg • 928-1469

T. Pura QC 475m² 4BR 4TB 5CG w/Garden • 928-2497

Timog QC 493m² 3BR 3TB 4CG P15.5M • 928-2497

T.SORA P1.3M
09179834920/09173574399

UP Village QC Old House LA400m² 6-8M • 533-5525

Xavierville New Duplex
0917-7541545

RIZAL

2Sty 4BR 2TB 3.5M 6412590 643-6766 • 0917-7887315

Beverly Hills LA1700sqm FA700m² P15M • 655-9393

Dacon Townhomes LA155m² FA90m² 1.8M • 655-9393

Homepoint Subd. LA79sqm FA60m² P950T • 655-9393

Vista Verde 200LA 281FA 4BR 3TB Maids Rm/TB 2cargrge Nice 3.5M RUSH B141619148 C9175351847

SAN JUAN

Bargain GH H&L Corner 900m² P38M • 671-4421

Ghills N 1000 cor 6B Den Spool P38M M 723-2391

Ghills SEV P20M, 35M, 50M & Up Call 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

Baguio House & Lot Good Location 531-3742

Tagaytay 249.5M 2Stry B-new Call 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PROVINCIAL

1Hectares Bulacan Rdy 4 Piggery P3.5M 9281469

Rush Lucena City 541-3434

Tagaytay L286m² 2sty Bnew 9281469 • 4534877

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3•
LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775

LOT

ALABANG

AAV Southvale 400-800m² 13.500/14T/m² 874-9074/75

Ayala Southvale 400m² 13.500 gd loc 874-9074/75

KALOOCAN

Deparo Caloocan City 5Tm² VLot P3500/m² 928-1469

LAS PINAS

BF Resort Vill 270m² 5,500 Near Seton 874-9074 / 75

BFR Rush 414 5T 526 5.2 5T 343 5.5ST 169 8726951

BFRV nr Abel Mosce 169m² 6,500/m² • 874-7234

MANILA

A. Mabini VAC LOT 488m² @P50K/m² 8440130 Rosie

MANDALUYONG

9 de Pebrero Near Shaw A-1500m² • 534-6610 Jojo

Boni Ave Com'l LOT 150m² P3.5M 5325487 5310651 Te

Lot w/Old 2Sty LA:264m² Nr EDSA 3.5M only 5312021

Wack Wack 1100m² Near Manuela P40T/m² 671-4421

MARIKINA

Marikina East 814m² VAC Mor Sun 16K/m² 8440130

MUNTINLUPA

Hillsborough Area 450sqm P4M 655-4556 • 655-9393

Hilsboro 400-800 8,500/m² Good Loc. • 874-9074 / 75

PARANAQUE

Tahanan-Vac Lot 280sqm @12K/sqm • 844-0130

Maywood 288m² VAC LOT @7500/m² 8440130

Rush Cheap 510sqm 655-6284

V/L Multi-Natl 2Lots 615ea Main Rd Cheap 6435313

PASIG

Bo Kapitolyo 245m² 722-8951

Greenwoods 136m² 722-8951

Lot 6971sq.m. & warehouse at Pasig w/ wharf provision CALL: 897-5272 (Zenaida)

QUEZON CITY

2.5Has Resdl Lot Ideal Twnhse Devt QC 937-1536

4.5Has Resdl VL Cheap Diliman QC • 937-1536

Del Monte Ave. QC 1600m² V-Lot • 928-1469

L317 Marcos Hiway Comml Vacant Lot • 928-1469

Leland Dr near Eternal Gardens P1.3M • 671-4421

North View QC 180m² P5T/m² • 928-2497

Nr New York 400m² 20T Neg No Flood 6453731

QC 15th Ave 500m² 25T Neg Facing East 6453731

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Sta. Mesa Hts 0917-7541545

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

RUSH SALE!!!
Area, 9224.50m² Culiat, Sanville Subd gd for garage of heavy equipment owner leaving P5,500/m² or Best Offer Contact: CP# 0917-4366696 or 0919-2736254

Tandang Sora QC L-1640m² P16T/m² • 928-1469

Xavier Ville LA=457sqm P25T/sqm • 928-2497

Xavier Ville LA=280sqm P25T/sqm • 928-2497

RIZAL

300m² Palos Verdes Antipolo Very Cheap • 937-1536

Agnesville 300m² 722-8951

Antipolo V/L w/fruit trees 5300m² w/old Hse 6435313

Imelda Ave 464sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Kingsville Hills Area 120sqm P3T/sqm 655-9393, 655-4556

Montevista Hgts. Area: 140sqm PA.000/sqm 655-9393

Montevista Hts Area: 179sqm 3,900/m² 655-9393 • 655-4556

San Martin Subd. Area: 240m² 2,500/m² 655-9393 • 655-4556

Taytay 1H Tikling 3.3/2 Nice Flat w'Road 6453731

Taytay 1Ha. Comm'l Nat'l Rd 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Village East Area 387sqm 4,500/m² 655-9393, 655-4556

Village East Binangonan 203m² cor. 5313742

With Old House Area 426sqm P3M • 655-9393 / 655-4556

SAN JUAN

Ghills North 750-960m² 723-2391; 0917-3848111

Little Baguio 300-500m² 723-2391; 0917-3848111

San Juan Lit Baguio 450m² Good 4 Wrhse 723-2391

San Juan Little Baguio LA=300 & up • 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m² 681-2457

Angat Bulacan Farm Lot 18Has @250m² 872-0470

Baguio Subd. LOT w/Pine Trees Tel. 5313742

Beverly Place bes. SM Pampnga w/ Golf share Omar 8135776

Cityland, Paliparan Farmlots 791m² 668m² (adjoining) 6559393

Colbella Homes Tanauan Batangas 3Lots 5313742

Fort Magsaysay 18Has Resd'l P450m² 5313742

Glenwood Subd. Calamba 309sqm Tel. 0917-8122488

Grand Victoria N. Ecija 4 Lots 5313742

Lot in Cabuyao Laguna 120sqm Call 8891797 Joan

Malinta Bul 7049m² VLot Along Hi-way • 928-1469

San Pablo Farm Lot 2.1HA P600/sqm • 842-1571

RUSH: Tagaytay Lot 2510sqm overlooking Taal Lk. along Natl Rd beside Golf Club. Contact Yolly Cupat Tel#09198103219 or email REINER@GUOMAI.SH.CN or Fax 008621-62619187 or Alberto Nagrama 6410017

Sherwood Cavite 345m² B11 L3 Call 723-2391

Tagaytay 2Adj Lots 780 & 805sqm • 723-2391

Tagaytay 2Adj Lots 780 805m² Call 723-2391

Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 9283267

TAGAYTAY PROPERTIES
House & Lots • 681-2457

Tagaytay Royale w/Share 447m² Cor Lot 6337601-03

Tagaytay w/View 5802sqm P2000/sqm • 633-7601-03

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PROVINCIAL

Villa Segovia Sta Rosa 2 corner LOTS 5313742

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

KALOOCAN

Bnew 50m² 2br 1tb w/grge Nr. Malinta Exit 250T 5.5T Mo. /Amrt Text 09178349005 R-nel

MAKATI

3 Salcedo 3Br 9155177

Colonade Legaspi Village 3BR 3TB 9.5M 915-5177

Fort Bonl The New City 3BR Only P8.2M • 671-4421

Makati 2-3BR P3.8M Cash/Terms Call 533-5525

Medical Plaza Mkti 30sqm 2.2M. 48m² 3.3M Pkg 8150298

Salcedo Park Twr 11.5M 4BR 3Cars facing pool Rush! 4121825 / 09177914366

Studio Prince Plza II Ful Furn 3.5M (neg.) • Call 563-5042

STUDIO PRINCE PLAZA II ful fur. 3.5M (neg) Call 5635042

MANDALUYONG

2.5M 2BR 1TB w/Pkng DBO Only 882-0805 0919-3624113 Anna

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

Wack² Twin 2br FA145 Fcing Gll Crse Call 723-2391

WACKWACK Townhomes 2BR 93sqm 3M only 5312021

PARANAQUE

Paranaque City LA68m² 3BRs P3M • 533-5525

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

Phoenix Hts Condo P5.2M 135m² 3BR carprk 4121825

Phoenix Heights 2BR 120m² P4.8M 412-1825

Office Condo Ortigas 38Th /m² Cell 09174149898

PARAGON PLAZA EDSA Res. Studio • T634-1212

Renaissance 3000 2Bdrms 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Renaissance 3000 New 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Renaissance Tower 237m² 3br 8.5Mneg 8150298/5341271

Rush! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

Sam Miguel Ave. 86.17m² 1Pkrg • T634-1212

TEKTITE EAST 220 sqm 2Parking • T634-1212

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo 1.3M EZTerm 9126976 9132224 4381480

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Blue Ridge 4 3BR 3TB MR w/TB 2CG 6.5M • 928-2497

El Jardin Bohol Ave QC 2 Studios 1Cg Call 915-5177

Kamias 3Dr 12M 9155177

Nr Ateneo LA72 FA149 3br 2tb Nr Nice 6453731

PANAY 3BR P5M 722-8951

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

Scout Area 3BR 3TB 2CG MR w/TB 5.5M • 928-2497

Scout Thses 4-7M Nice 3Stry 9283267 9283267

T/Hse nr Ateneo 4260189

Narra Hts1 3BR 2TB 1CG 125m² 915-5177 641-9346

SAN JUAN

Annapolis Greenhills 2-3 BR 7-8M 9283267

Condo 3BR 137 P4M Call 723-2391

Ghills 3br P5.5M w/ Huge Blcny Call 723-2391

Ghills Anapolis FA130 Ofc / Res 2Br P3.8M 723-2391

Ghills Anapolis Condo 3br P9-11M 723-2391

G'hills Condo 3BR P5.5M Fur/Unfur • 723-2391

Ghills Ofc Condo 70m² w/Prkng FFur P32M 723-2391

Greenhills Condo 1BR FA 70 P3M 723-2391

Greenhills Eisenhower St., 3br P6-8M Call 723-2391

Greenhills Ofc 70'm w/Prkng P31M 723-2391

Nr G'Hills LA67 FA200 3br 7M 2Cg Nice 6453731

One Beverly Place 7.2M 3br mq pkg 157m² 6435313

San Juan Thse FA289 3br Attic P11.5M 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

Europa Condo FA171sqm Price P4M • 655-9393

OTHER AREAS

Condotel Facing L. Taal P1.1M Praise 7532532/33

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P15,000
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810-7183 872-7603
815-2144 871-8318
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VARIOUS AREAS

Makati/Ortigas 300-1500m² Ready to Use • 533-5525

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Fantasy World M. Share Praise Realty 7532532/33

Fontana Share 200T 9283267 / 141210187

FARM/FISHPEN

21Has Mango Orchard & Resort Bataan • 937-1536

Rawland Montalban 722-8951

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

3620065 BRIONES 7AVE 2T9 S/T

PARAÑAQUE

4BR3CR w/tel parking space at 28B Boeing St. Concord VII., MIA Rd. Contact 09173271028 Look for Haydee

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

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3BR 3T&B Maid's Qtr Grge 551-0016 (0917)891-3301

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V nice 1BR nr. Katipunan C5 call 727-5728/682-1467

HOUSE

KALOOCAN

APT 4 Rent 6T/m T9314057 Look 4 Leonie Quiet

MAKATI

Sanlo Maglines Belair Ecovil 1BR 5BR Mel Call 815-0298

SANLO 3BR 5268048/49

PARANAQUE

SAV II, San Mateo 4BR 3TB w/Grge 20T 510-9983 Nora

QUEZON CITY

10B Malumanay St. Sikatuna Vill 2BR&TB 15T/mo Alan 8184277

Cheap 2br grg SM Fview 26 Champaca Almar 4147674

RIZAL

4BR 4TB C2aprciate 655-6284

RENT 2 OWN Country Homes Cainta P9T/mo. 656-6491

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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cell 0917-3575970

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Mkti Legaspi Salcedo 250m² GF Ortigas Mel Call 815-0298

MANILA

1BR nrDLSU 57m² 9175364840

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PIONEER 1BR • 722-8951

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PASIG

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Valle Verde 6 2BR P19T 723-2391 • 0917-3848111

VVerde 6 3Brs w/Attic P35T/mo 6337601-03

QUEZON CITY

T'house 3BR 2TB Parking Don Antonio QC Call Mahdi 9296809 or Joan 8891797

SAN JUAN

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 83.80m² 5313742

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIOUS AREAS

Makati/Ortigas 2-3BRs 122-300m² 25T-85T 533-5525

FOR LEASE

1-3 Hec P50-70/m² With Bldg Cell 0917-4149898

Ind'l Lot Ideal 4 Mall 3Has Libis 4 Lease • T634-1212

BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

Com'l Space 4 Rent
Alng Mindnao Ave cor TSora Ave nr Sch Church & best 4 B-saloon, cafe bar, office & others 9396971/ 72

Coml/Res@ B.G. Belmonte St nr E Rodriguez QC 721-6386

**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

70m² Roosevelt Ave. 2C 438-3970; 0917-7914379

Ayala Life FEU Center F282m² 2Pkg Lot 928-1469

Makati Office Space 195m² 500/m² • 533-5525

Office Rm & Warehouse 4 Rent 126 15th Ave. Cubao QCTel.#9126966 / 9137676

Ortigas Ctr 100/200/400sqm 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

MALATE G/F 5268048/49

RESORT

Beach Hse Zambales 8953560

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

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KIA

'98 PREGIO P330T 7313492

MAZDA

94 B2200 2Cab P/S P215T 8315830/5354 Blue neg.

MERCEDES

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'98 MB100D P395 7313492

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96 "Suburban" 1500 Gas P880T Call Tel.# 844-2937 or cel.#: 0917-5262979

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MALE

A/C Tech/Helper 416-55- 99
258 Scout Fernandez QC

Bookkeeper Pref CPA Exp Clerk- Driver 633-1838

WANTED Result oriented individual with at least 10 yrs. work experience in Building/Property Management to the position of Building Manager. Application must be submitted to Roxas Land Corporation, Tower One, Ayala Ave., Makati City Tel# 841-56-09

FEMALE

Cook; All Around- Maid= 4 Persons; SS-4T 2600 Legarda, Sampaloc, Manila

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MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280722

Ofc. staff 9134470 Nell

Ofc staff 9134470 Rain

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Tel. Nos. 821-6867, 821-6870

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. Ofc.Staff 9134470-Nicol

OFFC. STAFF CALL MS. MARIAN 7366660

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Real Estate Seminar Licensure Start May 4 REBAP QC Call 743-9094

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Covering the period:
Apr. 08-21, 2001

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Group 13	P19.50/Unit
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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

For the Design, Construction and Operation and Management of Water Utility Systems under the

LGU Urban Water and Sanitation Project (LGU-UWSP)

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), on behalf of participating Local Government Units (LGUs) and their respective Prequalification, Bid and Awards Committees (PBACs), would like to invite interested Local and Foreign Firms to apply for prequalification and eventually, to submit a bid, if pre-qualified, for the Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems under a Long-Term Design-Build-Lease Contract in the following provinces.

Oriental Mindoro - Municipalities of Bansud, Baco, Gloria and San Teodoro;
Palawan - Municipalities of Bataraza and Magsaysay,
Nueva Vizcaya - Municipalities of Sta. Fe, Villaverde and Bayombong-Solano

Prequalification documents are available for issuance to interested potential bidders at the 3rd floor, Industrial Restructuring & Research (IRR), DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City with telephone nos. 867-3221 and 867-3233, Fax no. 815-1517; DBP Branches in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro; Puerto Princesa City, Palawan; and Solano, Nueva Vizcaya; DBP Area Management Offices in Lucena City and in Ilagan, Isabela, and the offices of the Mayors of the participating municipalities. Documents shall be made available to interested bidders from April 30 - May 4, 2001.

Five copies of the duly accomplished prequalification statement together with all the documents required to support the statement shall be submitted to the DBP Head Office in Makati City c/o IRR on or before 5:00 p.m. of May 11, 2001 (Friday).

The PBACs of the participating LGUs reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informalities therein, or to accept such bids as can be demonstrated to be advantageous to the participating Local Government Units.

(Sgd.) **MARIETTO A. ENECIO**
Vice-President
Development Bank of the Philippines

(PDI--April 30, May 1 & 2, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to prequalify and bid for the following equipment:

Computer equipment:
1. 33 units - Desktop Pentium III 600 MHZ
2. 5 units - Notebook Computer Intel Pentium III 400MHZ
3. 3 units - LCD/Multi-media Projector with screen and carrying casing
4. 3 units - Electronic Bundy Clock (Fingerprint scanner)
5. 12 units - Airconditioning unit, split type, 2.5HP
6. 18 units - Airconditioning unit, package type, 3 tons
7. Servicing of Airconditioning units

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for prequalification on or before 8 May 2001 at 10:00 at the Procurement Branch, Office of the Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone number 911-6118.

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business/License Permit (2000)
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last two years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of clients for the last two (2) years together with address, telephone number, contact person.

Inquiries for the details and particulars on bid documents, specifications and other details shall also be provided during office hours at the Office of the Administrative Services, OSND. Pre-bid conference shall be held on 8 May 2001 at 2:00 PM, OASPP Conference Room, Room 206, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bid proposals shall be opened on 17 May 2001, at 10:00 AM at the same venue.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the OSND Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (OSND PBAC).

(Sgd.) **MGEN. RUBEN F. CIRON (RET)**
Chairman, Bid & Award Committee

(PDI--April 28 & 30, 2001)

Department of Health
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
FCC, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila, 1770 Philippines
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PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING FOR THE PROVISION OF ENGINEERING MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CY 2001

BID BULLETIN NO. 1

Please be informed that the bidding for Engineering and Maintenance Services which was advertised last April 7, 8 and 9, 2001 has been extended. The new schedule is as follows:

May 2	4:00 P.M.	Deadline of securing of bid forms
May 4	4:00 P.M.	Submission of bid forms and written comments for discussion during the pre-bid conference
May 7	1:00 P.M.	Pre-bid Conference
May 11	10:00 A.M.	Bid Opening

Bid Forms may be obtained from the Property and Supply Department, anytime during office hours.

(Sgd.) **REMIGIO M. OLVEDA, M.D., CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI--April 28, 29& 30, 2001)

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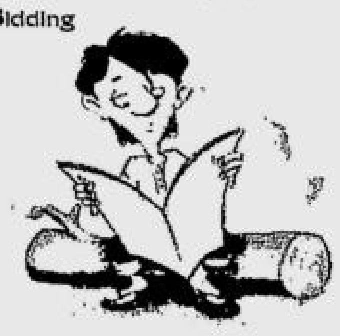

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In Loving Memory
on the
First Death Anniversary
of

TERESITA CONTRERAS SANTOS

September 20, 1931 - April 30, 2000

Holy Masses will be offered today, April 30, 2001
at the following churches:

Family Mausoleum, Manila Memorial Park ..... 4:00 PM
Sucat, Parañaque
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City .... 7:30 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Lantana Street ..... 7:00 AM
Cubao, Quezon City
St. Joseph Parish, Project 3, Quezon City ..... 7:00 AM
Our Lady of the Abandoned, Sta. Ana, Manila ..... 6:30 AM
Don Bosco Parish Church, Pasay Road, Makati City .... 7:00 AM
San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City, Batangas ..... 6:00 AM
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong ..... 7:30 AM

We, her family, request relatives, friends and pious readers
to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Our Dearly Beloved

Rodgene Angela E. Reniva

(STC, QC Batch 2000, YFC C4)

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 28, 2001
at the age of 17.

Her bereaved parents **RODEL** and **GENE**; brother **RAFAEL**; sister **ROSANNA**; grandmothers **LOLA ERLY** and **LOLA PAULA**; aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capitol Memorial Chapels (Aurora), Araneta Avenue, Quezon City on Wednesday, May 2, 2001, 7:00 AM, her wake will be transferred to the Espejo residence in Pangil, Laguna.

Interment will be on Friday, May 4, 2001 at the Pangil Catholic Cemetery right after the 2:00 PM Mass at the Our Lady's Nativity Parish Church.

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

LORETO RIOS VILLANUEVA

former President, Catholic Women's League of San Fernando, Romblon has been called to eternal life by the Lord to join her beloved husband, the late **Dr. Leovigildo C. Villanueva** on April 28, 2001 at the age of 95 years.

Her children **Lauro & Nena, Letty & James**; grandchildren **Icy** and **Cris, Marc Shalini, Nicole Villanueva** and **Lizette, Jayvee & Tyrone V. Chan**; sisters **Noli, Nading, Marcing & Asila**, nephews, nieces and relatives request the pious readers & friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 01, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 3:00 P.M. Mass.

A Celebration Of Life

TERESA LLENADO Y FRANCISCO

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 28, 2001 at the age of 79.

Sister of **Emilia** (†) and **Victor, Felicidad** (†), **Luz** (†) and **Pedro** (†),
Greg and **Molly, Ester** and **Andy, Baby** and **Jorge.**
Beloved Aunt of **Chelo, Dondi** and **Laura, Dolly, Bobby** and **Emma.**
Endearing Grand-Aunt of **Paul** and **Brian, Stephen Daniel, B.J. Ivan, Kaye** and **Nico.**
Other relatives and friends request your presence as they celebrate God's faithfulness.

Her earthly remains lie in state at Chapel Q of the Loyola Memorial Chapels
in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 1, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City
after a Committal Service at 1:00 PM.

In Loving Memory on the
Tenth Death Anniversary of

GRACE ASUNCION

who passed away on April 30, 1991

Holy Masses will be offered today,
April 30, 2001 at:
Our Lady of Loreto Parish Plaza
J. Figueras, Sampaloc, Manila
at 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

"...absent with the body
to be present with
the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

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sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

NPCI LAUNCHES AIRSIDE NEWS

The NAIA Press Corps, Inc. (NPCI), an association of mediamen covering the premier airport recently launched its publication AirSide News at the Century Park Hotel in Manila. The successful launch was attended by special guests and airline officials led by Transportation Secretary Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez (eighth from left) and airport general manager Edgardo Manda (fifth from left). Others in photo are (from left) PAL president Avelino Zapanta, AirSide News managing editor Honor Blanco-Cabie, Manila Standard publisher Andy Del Rosario, LTO chief Edgardo Abenina, Monette Rivera, AirSide News marketing and advertising manager, Naia Press Corps., Inc (NPCI) president Lolita R. Acosta, NPCI vice president Loy S. Caliwan, PAL executive assistant to the chair Fred Tan and AirSide News editor Omar Acosta. AirSide News features among other aviation-related stories, information about air travel and safety that would be useful to local and foreign travelers. It is being published by NPCI monthly and will be circulated in different airports in the country.

DIWA HOSTS ENVIRONMENTAL TALK

Diwa Learning Systems Inc., the leader in educational publishing, recently conducted the Diwa-Environ Talk in Davao and General Santos as part of its continuing seminar series on the '3 Rs' of waste management – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. In attendance were more than 2,000 grade school, high school students and teachers. Shown above, from left, is Vic Pastrana, Diwa DistiNet Socsargen area vice president, Lourdes Pastrana, Margaret Quilat, Rom Kenneth Sales, Gloria Sabido, Armie Joie Cabasan, winners of Tarzy stuffed toys, and guest speaker Rosalinda Zambrano.

PISTANG KRISTIANO 2001 SLATED

Day by Day Christian Ministries led by Pastor Ed Lapiz will celebrate their fifth 'Pistang Kristiano 2001' on Tuesday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Quezon Memorial Circle. The event will include exhibits from major Christian ministries, folk artisans and craftsmen, a 'tiangge', contests, games, fireworks, praise and worship and more. Day by Day's worship arm, Kaloob: Musika at Sayaw ng Bayan Alay Kay Hesus, has been at the forefront in preserving, redeeming and promoting Filipino culture as tools in the context of Christian worship. Up to 10,000 people have participated in Pistang Kristiano in the past. Everyone is invited, and admission is free. Interested parties may contact Gene of Day by Day at 887-2234/843-3003.

BITS & Clips

DLSU-CSB sets baking course

THE DLSU-College of Saint Benilde School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management, in collaboration with the Certificate Program Center, offers certificate courses in the area of garde manger and baking and pastry arts on May 3 to 31. For details and reservations, visit or contact the Certificate Program Center. The CSB main campus is at 2544 Taft Avenue, Manila with telephone nos. 521-7304, 526-7441 to 47 local 104 while the International Center campus is at Arellano Avenue corner Estrada Street, Manila with telephone nos. 303-9858 to 59, or e-mail cpc@csb.dlsu.edu.ph.

Chinese cooking course with Lee Kum Kee

AUTHENTIC Chinese sauces Lee Kum Kee, together with the Center for Culinary Arts, will give a free short course in authentic Chinese cooking on Friday, May 4. For more information, call 426-4841 or 426-4837.

Manila YWCA fitness programs

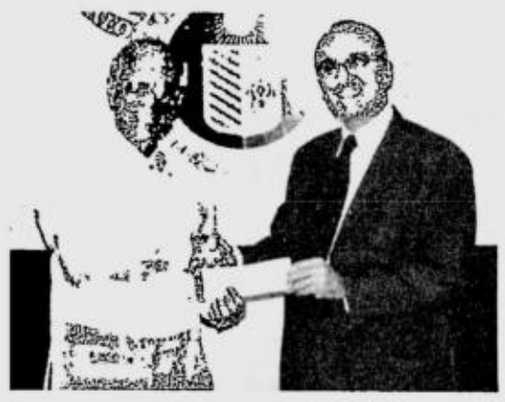
THE YOUNG Women's Christian Association of Manila announces summer activities starting May 4 (second batch). The YWCA of Manila is open everyday 8 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during Saturdays, and Sundays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 525-6065/523-6513/523-5790, or visit its headquarters at 1144 General Luna Street, Ermita, Manila.

New schedule for writing workshop

A NEW schedule this summer for a writing workshop for children and young adults from ages eight to 18 has been set, according to Visitacion "Chit" dela Torre, writer-book author-publisher. The workshop includes technique. in style and essay writing, feature writing, book reviews, movies and musical concerts, journalism, short story writing and playwriting. Field trips are also included. Workshops shall be held in the mornings (9:30-11:30) and in the afternoons (1-3) for different age groups. Interested applicants can call 815-6925, 815-4938, or they may go to Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

CREATIVE POSTER-MAKING WINNERS

Genetic Computer Institute recently announced the winners of its 'CreITive' poster-making contest with the theme, 'The Role of IT Education in building Great Careers.' The contest was open to all elementary and high school students in the country. Third prize went to Famille L. Rivera of Dr. Arcadio Santos National High School, while 11-year-old Bernadette Mary Q. Umali, grade six student of T. Tecson Elementary School, took the second prize. Twelve-year-old Lenard Ian Halili, grade five student of St. Peter The Apostle School in Paco, Manila emerged as the first prize winner. With him above are David Wong, managing director of Genetic Binondo branch; William Tan, franchising operations manager of GHII; Msgr. Francis Chin, school director of St. Peter The Apostle School, and Peterson Co, center operation manager of Genetic Binondo branch.



PHILIP MORRIS PARTNERS WITH ATENEO

Philip Morris Philippines (PMPh) managing director George Farah (right) and Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J. shake hands shortly after signing an agreement granting the Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs (ACSPPA) a $30,000 support fund. ACSPPA shall use that amount for its institutional strengthening and policy research on poverty alleviation, good governance and economic development. ACSPPA is the socio-political research unit of Ateneo and serves as the secretariat of the Ateneo Research Network for Development (ARND), a formal network of the university's existing social development and academic units engaged in research and outreach activities. PMPh is the local subsidiary of Philip Morris Companies Inc., the world's largest producer and marketer of consumer packaged goods.

HYATT REGENCY APPOINTMENTS

Hyatt Regency general manager David Pacey announced the appointments of Lawyer Juancho Baltazar (seated) as director of human resources, Sarah Jane Moya (left) as assistant director of business development, and Livia Joanna Guzman as business development manager. In his new position as director of human resources at Hyatt Regency Manila, Baltazar is part of the executive committee, heading the human resources and training departments. Moya was recently chosen to undergo a corporate management development and training program called "Hyattrack," designed to develop candidates for promotion within the hotel and Hyatt International Corporation. In Guzman's three years with the sales and marketing division of Hyatt Regency Manila, she has been recognized for her excellent selling skills.

Hyundai Engineering approves shake-up

SEOUL—The board of South Korea's largest civil engineering firm on Saturday approved a capital write-down to allow a fresh injection of funds from creditors, a director said.

The ailing Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. also agreed a clear-out of directors to give its new chief executive officer a free hand in restructuring the firm, board member Shin Moon-young said.

An emergency board meeting reviewed a proposal offered by creditor banks that the existing shares held by minority shareholders be swapped into new shares at a ratio of 5.99 old shares to one new share.

"We will go to the new CEO with what was discussed today and we will meet again on Monday to make a final decision on details of the capital write-down," Shin said after the meeting.

Creditor banks on Thursday appointed Shim Hyun-young as Hyundai Engineering's new chief executive. Shin was president of Hyundai Engineering and Plastics Co., which was separated from the Hyundai Group last year.

"We also decided to form a new board of directors to give the new CEO a free hand in directing Hyundai Engineering," Shin said.

After the ratio of the debt-to-equity swap is fixed, creditor banks will inject 2.9 trillion won ($2.2 billion) into Hyundai Engineering to avert a looming cash crunch.

By the end of June, the company needs to repay $150 million owed to foreign creditors and 450 billion won to suppliers. *AFP*

BESTFOODS MERGER

Unilever to cut 8,000 more jobs, shut down 30 factories

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands—Anglo-Dutch food giant Unilever would slash 8,000 more jobs and close 30 plants as it integrated the recently acquired Bestfoods into its operations, a spokesman said Friday.

The 8,000 jobs were in addition to 25,000 jobs the consumer products maker said in February it would cut over five years to recover from a slump in profits. The combined cut of 33,000 positions represented around 11 percent of Unilever's worldwide workforce of 295,000 people.

Unilever, the company behind such household names as Dove soap, Lipton tea, Vaseline and Pepsodent, made the announcement as it announced lower first quarter earnings.

The job cuts are part of the company's plans to reduce the number of core brands by 75 percent to focus on its 400 leading products.

Spokesman Tom Gordijn said the job losses would be at Bestfoods production sites in North America, Latin America and, to a lesser extent, in Europe. He declined to give specific locations for the factories slated for closure.

Gordijn said Unilever expected annual cost savings of $750 million from the overall reduction in jobs.

Unilever struck a deal for Bestfoods, the Englewood, New Jersey-based owner of the Hellmann's, Mazola, Knorr and Mueller's brands, in June 2000. It later acquired Ben and Jerry's ice cream and Slimfast foods. The purchases cost more than $28 billion and made Unilever one of the largest food companies in the world.

Unilever said that by the first quarter of this year, it had already slashed 8,000 positions of the previously announced 25,000 jobs.

In the January-March period, Unilever said its net profit dropped 61 percent to 254 million euros ($226 million) from 649 million euros in 2000. But the decline reflected one-time items associated with its purchases last year.

Earnings before exceptional items slipped 4 percent to 702 million euros from 733 million euros a year ago, and those results were slightly ahead of analysts' forecasts.

Sales jumped 20 percent to 12.7 billion euros ($17.6 billion) from 10.6 billion euros a year earlier. *AP*

Judge powerless to stop Napster infringement

SAN FRANCISCO—A federal judge hearing the recording industry's case against Napster said unless an appellate court clarifies its ruling in the case, she can't force the online song-swapping service to identify and remove all copyright music files.

For the moment, the memorandum issued Friday keeps in place a loophole that allows Napster users to continue downloading copyright music.

The record labels want Napster to remove any copyright songs they identify on its servers, a position US District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel has strongly endorsed in a series of rulings.

But removing the songs has proven difficult, since Napster users constantly change the file names, often inserting intentional typos, staying one step ahead of Napster's efforts to remove songs.

Napster has said it can't possibly keep up with every variation on its network, which Patel has described as an out-of-control "monster" that should be shut down entirely.

The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Patel's July order that Napster remove all copyrighted works from its file-swapping site, but with several key caveats. The appellate court said the Recording Industry Association of America must "provide notice to Napster of copyrighted works and files containing such works available on the Napster system before Napster has the duty to disable access to the offending content."

Patel said Friday that the RIAA's interpretation—that it does not need to identify individual files—"requires reading more into the paragraph than the Ninth Circuit has made apparent." *AP*

Average Wall Streeter earns $195,533/yr.

NEW YORK—The average employee on New York City's famed Wall Street earned $195,533 a year in 1999, and if the person worked for one of the global financial capital's firms since 1992, the worker enjoyed a pay increase of almost 50 percent, a state government report showed.

The analysis by New York State Comptroller H. Carl McCall found the average salary for someone working for other kinds of employers was $46,955. Still, that worker also gained ground, collecting 31 percent more than in 1992, according to the report released on Tuesday.

McCall, who wants to be the Democratic candidate for governor, flung himself into one of the bitterest battles dividing voters and his party from Republicans, including Gov. George Pataki. US Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton won election last November partly by pointing out just how poorly upstate's economy was performing—especially when compared with New York City's sparkling turnaround.

When New York City is subtracted from 2000 employment measures, the state's annual job growth rate fell to 1.6 percent from 2.7 percent, McCall's study said. "In general, employment growth in the four major upstate cities fell back to the slower rates obtained in the 1996 to 1998 period, suggesting that the more rapid growth in 1999 was an anomaly," the report said.

When only the private sector was examined, Buffalo's growth rate slowed to 0.4 percent, Syracuse to 0.9 percent, while Elmira saw a 1.4-percent drop. In Binghamton, growth slowed eight-tenths of a percentage point to 2.2 percent. *Reuters*

Wella reports sales increase

DARMSTADT—Wella AG has reported consolidated sales rose 19.1 percent to 2.824 billion euros, its most dynamic rate of growth in decades.

This excellent development was particularly to be perceived in Wella's international business, which achieved an increase of 23.2 percent. The share of total sales abroad now accounts for 74 percent. Even after adjustments for acquisitions and currency effects, sales growth amounted to 12.4 percent, in itself an extraordinary development compared with those of its competitors.

The group's earnings developed even more dynamically.

Increasing by 26.7 percent to 228.4 million euros, earnings before interest and taxes showed an even more forceful growth than sales.

For the first time, EBIT margin rose above 8 percent. Profit before taxes rose by 24.6 percent to 184.3 million euros, net profit for the year advanced by 25.8 percent to 101 million euros. Net profit for the year was burdened by a one-time calculatory tax effect. Without this effect, net profit would have grown by almost 40 percent.

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BUSINESS

BSP sees inflation at 6.5%-6.7% for April

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he sees no dramatic change in the inflation rate for April, which could range from 6.5 percent to 6.7 percent as food and fuel prices remained constant for the month.

"My personal forecast is that inflation would be somewhere between 6.5 and 6.7 percent although some analysts are saying it could go as much as 7 percent," Buenaventura said.

The internal think tank of the Bangko Sentral, according to Buenaventura, has yet to come up with its own forecast.

The inflation rate had averaged at 6.7 percent in February and March and the government expects the trend to continue or even soften in the coming months. The International Monetary Fund, however, believes inflation would still hit about 8 percent either in May or in June.

Buenaventura said the IMF's numbers were a bit pessimistic.

The only notable adjustment that happened in April, according to the BSP governor, was the unexpected decision of the Bangko Sentral to cut its key interest rates further by another half-a-percentage point early this month.

"But I do not expect the impact to flow into the system yet," he said.

Lower interest rates usually free more funds into the system as businesses and individuals get a more affordable access to credit. This sometimes drives inflation higher than when interest rates are higher.

The Bangko Sentral has brought its overnight interest rates to their year-ago levels of 9.5 percent for borrowing and 11.75 percent for lending.

Buenaventura said that even if April inflation is stable or lower than his forecast, monetary authorities were no longer likely to trim down interest rates.

"We won't do anything on interest rates any more until the US Fed moves again," said the BSP chief who noted that analysts expect US monetary authorities to cut interest rates anew by half-a-percentage point in their Federal Open Markets Committee meeting in May.

The government is targeting to pin down inflation this year to 6-7 percent from an average 4.4 percent last year.

The Macapagal administration, however, brought down its gross domestic product growth forecast to only 3.8 percent from a high-end projection of 4.3 percent.

A slowdown in the US and Japanese economies, both major trading partners of the Philippines, is expected to chop export growth to 4 percent from 8.7 percent last year.

From an earlier forecast of 3.3 percent, the IMF has downscaled further its GDP growth projection for the Philippines to 3 percent this year as it doubted a quick economic rebound projected by the government.

NTC, US agency ink technical pact

By Anthony O. Alcantara

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has signed an agreement with the US Agency for International Development that would seek to deregulate further the telecommunications industry and bring down prices for basic telecommunications services.

Under the memorandum of agreement signed by the NTC and USAID last Friday, both parties would undertake a joint technical and training cooperation program to restructure and strengthen regulatory processes.

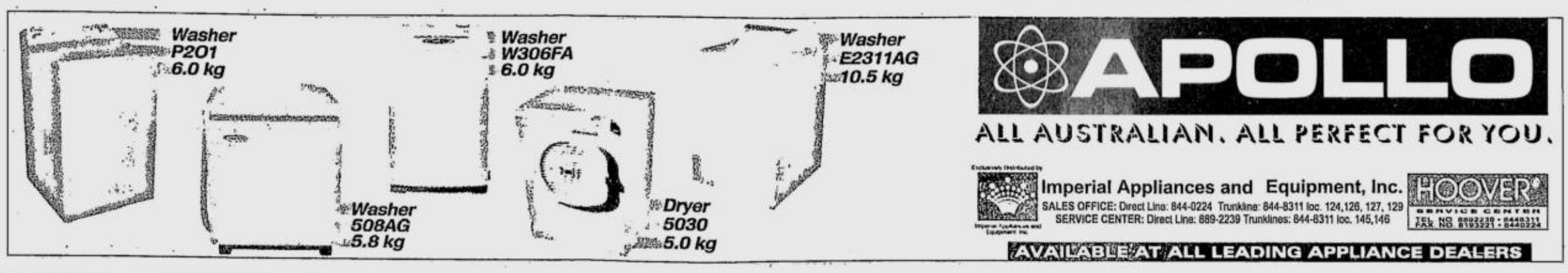
One issue to be tackled would be whether the NTC should continue regulating rates for telecommunications services through a phone company's return on investment or replace it with other types of control.

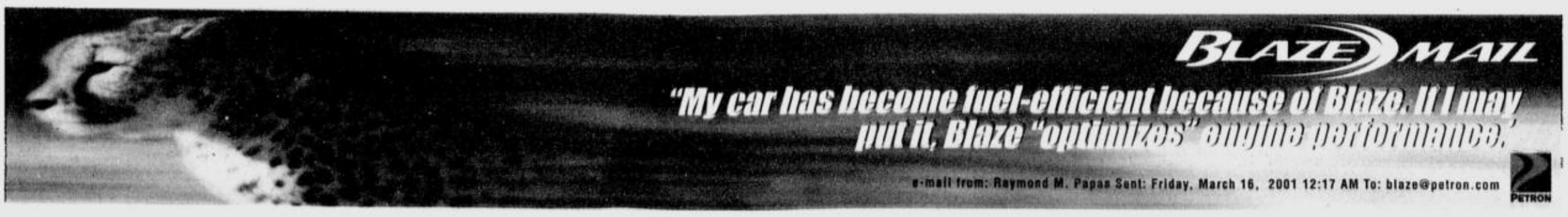
At present, phone firms cannot raise the rates for basic services such as the landline service without the approval of the NTC. A limit on the rate of return on investment of 12 percent a year is currently being used to determine whether or not a rate increase is justified.

The NTC has found out that the rate of return promotes inefficiency since it did not price services at cost. The options being considered under the program include the price cap, prices surveillance and non-discriminatory pricing requirement.

Under the MOA, the USAID will help the NTC introduce pricing reforms such as wholesale pricing, wherein phone companies could negotiate with other carriers for the amount of traffic and its corresponding rates.

A phone company could therefore offer a certain amount of traffic at a discounted rate. At present, phone companies charge each other a certain amount for every minute of traffic that passes from one network to another.





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'Seaweed King' swims to surface out of the red

BY IRENE R. SINO CRUZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—As recently as five years ago, Benson Dakay was on top of the world. His seaweed business was booming as demand for his Shemberg group's exports continued to expand. Dakay, however, was brought crashing back to earth less than a year later when the financial crisis hit Asia.

Dakay was suddenly faced with the possibility of losing his business when his creditor banks started demanding payment of outstanding loans.

They demanded outright payment of the P3-billion loan for Shemberg and the Dakay group and P600 million for Shemberg Biotech. The banks also froze the Shemberg group's bank accounts, leaving Dakay with almost zero operating capital.

The bank creditors formed a consortium and started negotiations with Dakay.

"They wanted a fire sale of all Shemberg facilities and the properties of the Dakay family," Dakay recalls.

The consortium also wanted Dakay to step out of the business. The consortium even offered to pay Dakay some $3 million on the condition that he will have to desist from going into the same business.

He was also required to transfer the rights to the business technology and the market he developed to the consortium.

Dakay said he almost accepted the offer at the time.

"I did not know what to do. Seaweed was my life. *Maggo-golf na lang siguro ako,*" he says.

But it would have been very painful to leave the industry which he virtually started, Dakay admits.

He started his business exporting raw seaweeds when he was a teen and made his first million at 19. He later on shifted to manufacturing carrageenan to generate more revenues.

After much introspection, Dakay decided to resist the consortium's pressure. Instead, he asked the consortium to restructure the loan so that the Shemberg group would continue to operate.

Dakay says the Shemberg group is worth more than the value of its assets. Interested buyers would only be after Shemberg's processes and formulas of the products, he says. After getting these, he says, the buyer could just stop the operation of the plants.

Dakay adds that he has a responsibility to the company's employees and the seaweed farmers whose families are dependent on Shemberg for their livelihood.

Fortunately, Dakay was able to convince the majority of the creditor banks of Shemberg Corp. to restructure the loan. He also started negotiations with Shemberg Biotech Corp.'s creditors for a similar scheme.

He sorely needed the restructuring of the debts as Colgate Palmolive, Biotech's biggest client, refused to place further orders until the creditors agreed to restructure the loan.

Colgate pointed to Shemberg Biotech's financial instability as the reason for their decision to drop the latter as a supplier.

Biotech is now working on a rehabilitation proposal for approval of the creditor banks that would hopefully convince Colgate Palmolive to renew its relationship with the company.

About a year after he almost lost his business, Dakay has learned some lessons. He has become more conservative in his lifestyle and his business decisions.

He also spends most of his time trying to get more clients. He even has to cancel a scheduled vacation with his children because some clients will be coming for an important meeting.

"Before that (the Asian currency crisis), everybody, not just me, would buy a lot of cars, have a yacht with a jacuzzi and go traveling abroad. After the crisis, you have to cut down spending. And my yacht, once a luxury for me, has to be a profit center. There's no more building of houses," he tells SundayBiz.

Even the Shemberg employees have learned to cut down on overhead expenses. The employees have done away with unnecessary waste of spare parts and other supplies, he says.

"Every cent now counts," he says.

He has also learned to become prudent. "After the crisis, there's no more borrowing. As of today, we are operating on our own profit," he adds.

Emerging stronger from the crisis, Shemberg now plans to expand its production facilities in Mandaue to meet the growing demand for semi-refined carrageenan, he says. Shemberg would use its own funds to finance the expansion project, Dakay adds.

Shemberg Biotech is also looking for additional buyers to reduce its dependence on Colgate.

Biotech is negotiating with several companies, including a competitor of Colgate.

One market Biotech is looking at is the capsule market, Dakay says.

He foresees that demand for refined carrageenan as a material for capsules will grow following concerns over the use of animal skin for capsules.

Although Shemberg Corp. faces a good year in 2001, Dakay is still facing difficulties as far as Biotech is concerned.

He has also filed a case against a competitor firm FMC Marine Colloids before the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB).

Dakay alleges in his complaint that the company, a subsidiary of an American conglomerate, has been dumping untreated wastes into the Mactan channel.

Although critics charged that he is motivated by business reasons, Dakay maintains that his interest in the case is due to the impact on the environment.

SEAWEED/ C5

BENSON Dakay made his first million at 19 but the Asian crisis threatened his empire. Today he is wiser and says he has learned his lessons.

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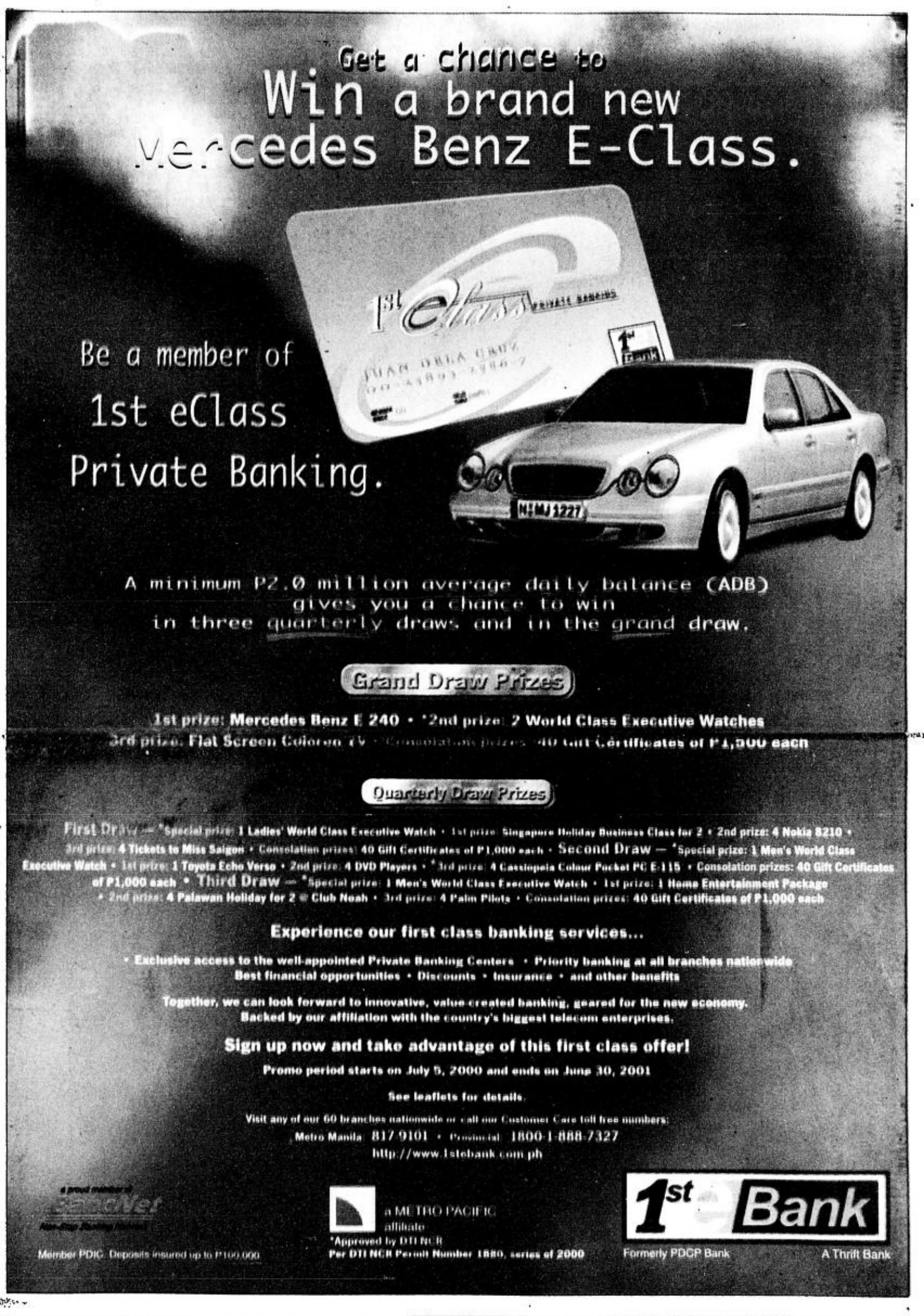

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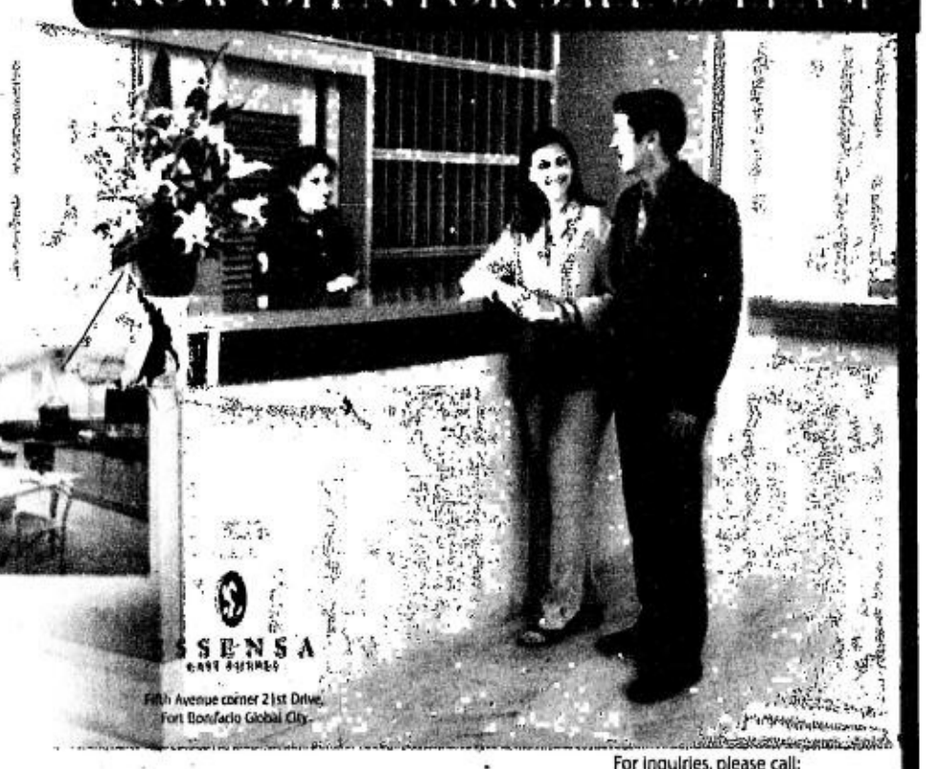

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CEOs as role models in the new economy

(Second of two parts)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Corazon S. de la Paz

AT PricewaterhouseCoopers, we have observed seven principles that leading-edge companies are using, in a sea of available information, to harness and amplify the know-how, experience, and expertise of their employees.

1. Knowledge focused. Knowledge is ubiquitous. Focus only on what your business needs to know—for example, knowing why projects succeed or fail.

2. Knowledge visible. Make important knowledge visible. Create explicit pathways to the experts and important wisdom with the company.

3. Knowledge defined. Pay attention to the vocabulary of knowledge. Define the terms that define the business, and make it easy for people to find explicit information.

4. Knowledge outside the walls. Go beyond traditional company borders to tap knowledge from customers, suppliers and even competitors.

5. Knowledge valued. Make it clear to your employees (through compensation and incentives) that knowledge sharing is a core value of the company.

6. Knowledge measured. Track the results, be it the number of "hits" a database receives or face-to-face feedback on work won, patents received, time and energy saved.

7. Knowledge exemplified. Lastly, as CEO, show through your actions that expertise and intelligence will only be rewarded if they are shared.

A CEO from Japan said: "It won't be enough in the future to collect information. It will become vital to add value to what is collected, and utilize this new found knowledge for managing business."

Personal attributes

CEOs of large corporations have to prioritize because there is not enough time for all the things they should do. CEOs in the survey set as agenda priorities the following:

70% Setting corporate strategy and vision

47% Reshaping corporate culture and employee behavior

38% Overseeing budgets and financial reporting

34% Contacting key customers

32% Exploring mergers and acquisitions

These results appear to be an accurate reflection of the growing importance of the globalization of large corporations. As more and more companies cross borders to do business in other countries, corporate culture and employee behavior must be recreated to become transnational rather than country-specific.

As one French CEO said, "Each country, and each company, must transform itself and become 'European' rather than a specific nationality—French included. We have lived in isolation from other cultures for too long."

CEOs also identified "experience managing multicultural teams" as the quality they most value in global managers—more than twice as important as "broad experience within the company" or "experience living and working in different countries" and vastly more important than "an advanced degree from a top business school."

Globalization, however, has not advanced as to eliminate regional and cultural differences.

Matters of ethics and professional conduct also continue to be at the forefront of the minds of CEOs. For instance, in another survey sponsored by PWC on "Corporate Conduct and Professional Integrity in the Investment Management Industry," all respondents designed their programs to consider fiduciary responsibility, regulatory and corporate compliance, personal conduct and reputation management.

Values-based leadership

A well-run organization would want their CEOs to be the best and the brightest, a global advisor, a thought and knowledge leader. Above all, however, the CEO must have a values-based leadership. To be a good leader means communicating those values as the foundation of the organization.

At Joaquin Cunanan & Co., sharing our abiding values is likened to bringing up ethical children, training one's sons and daughters to do good, to do right and to be decent, honorable and righteous. This means mentoring our people by the examples of our lives, based on essential values of respect, honesty, fairness, responsibility, compassion, maturity and faith.

Over the years, we have ensured that the company is driven by qualities that lead us to our ambition: "To be the leading global professional services organization solving complex business problems for top-tier clients in global, national and local markets." We try not only to aim at the goal itself, but also at some ambitious goal beyond it.

To achieve this, we adhere to our core values and beliefs in an atmosphere of sharing and empathy. We strive to be fair and forthright at all times. We demand these of ourselves and of our clients. Accordingly, we are fully committed to the laws, rules and ethical principles governing our profession. No client or any financial gain shall be worth risking the reputation of our firm.

The merger of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand has created the largest professional services organization in history and opened the door to our future. It accorded us the broadest geographical presence and the most diverse pool of expertise the world has ever known. The result: a vast range of clients and great opportunity to render excellent work.

With this setting, we ask ourselves these questions: What standards must we have to achieve our aspirations? How must we behave with each other and with our clients? In short, how can we fulfill the promise of PWC?

At the global firm of PWC, we have core values that guide our daily conduct and our business, which were defined by the Global Values Team. The core values are: Excellence, teamwork and leadership, and are supported by nine elements:

Excellence

Excellence is achieved through innovation, learning and agility. Driven by excellence, we deliver what we promise and add value beyond what is expected. Through innovation, we develop creative solutions and translate them into action. By learning, we continuously develop the knowledge of our business and the expertise of everyone in it. In agility, we are alert to change and move fast with flexibility and decisiveness.

Teamwork

One of our greatest challenges is marshalling our resources to deliver great work. Teamwork requires strong relationships, respect and sharing. In relationships, we build productive, long-term relationships with clients and each other. With respect, we embrace diverse cultures, communities and views. We actively consider the needs of individuals and worklife quality. In sharing, we readily share knowledge, experience, resources and opportunities.

Leadership

People at every level of our business must feel empowered and able to take the lead in their areas of responsibility. Leadership demands courage, vision and integrity. Leadership means leading with clients, leading with people and thought leadership. Courage means we are bold to seize the initiative and welcome responsibility. With vision, we see the bigger picture, and have a clear sense of where we want to go, which inspires and motivates others. With integrity, we are trustworthy and honorable.

We also carry forward respect for the individual, fair return, consistency and balance.

Respect for the individual

We recognize the intrinsic value of our fellowmen, and are committed to upholding everyone's dignity and capacity for growth. We aspire that those who work with us experience a great sense of fulfillment in their professional and economic lives, and that our clients to stay with us because of the mutual respect we develop for each other.

Fair return

Profitability is crucial to our success, but we try not to make gains at the expense of others. We aim that our business relationships are mutually beneficial to all involved; that we shall be properly compensated for our services and our clients will get top value for their money.

Consistency and balance

We treat our clients, colleagues and staff the way we would like to be treated. Our actions shall not contradict our words. We wish to be judged by the foregoing core values and beliefs in all aspects of our professional and personal lives.

In sum—the belief in the values of hard work, ethical behavior and excellence and simply doing your best is a paradigm any enterprise can adopt to succeed.

Being a role model

On being role models, we must provide a framework for development, capitalize on our competitive advantage, think globally and strategize regionally, but act locally. At the same time, we teach our beliefs about knowledge, about learning, about adversity, about mistakes, about achievements.

We teach the way to make it through a difficult day, or to celebrate accomplishment. We teach opinions with ourselves, our attitudes, our reactions, our approaches to problems, and our interactions with people.

As a CEO, I would like to share this: Values begin at home, and start from the individual family. I have been much influenced by my parents' upbringing and the values they inculcated in us. My philosophy in life is simply just doing the best all the time, and making the best out of the present situation with fairness, transparency and integrity.

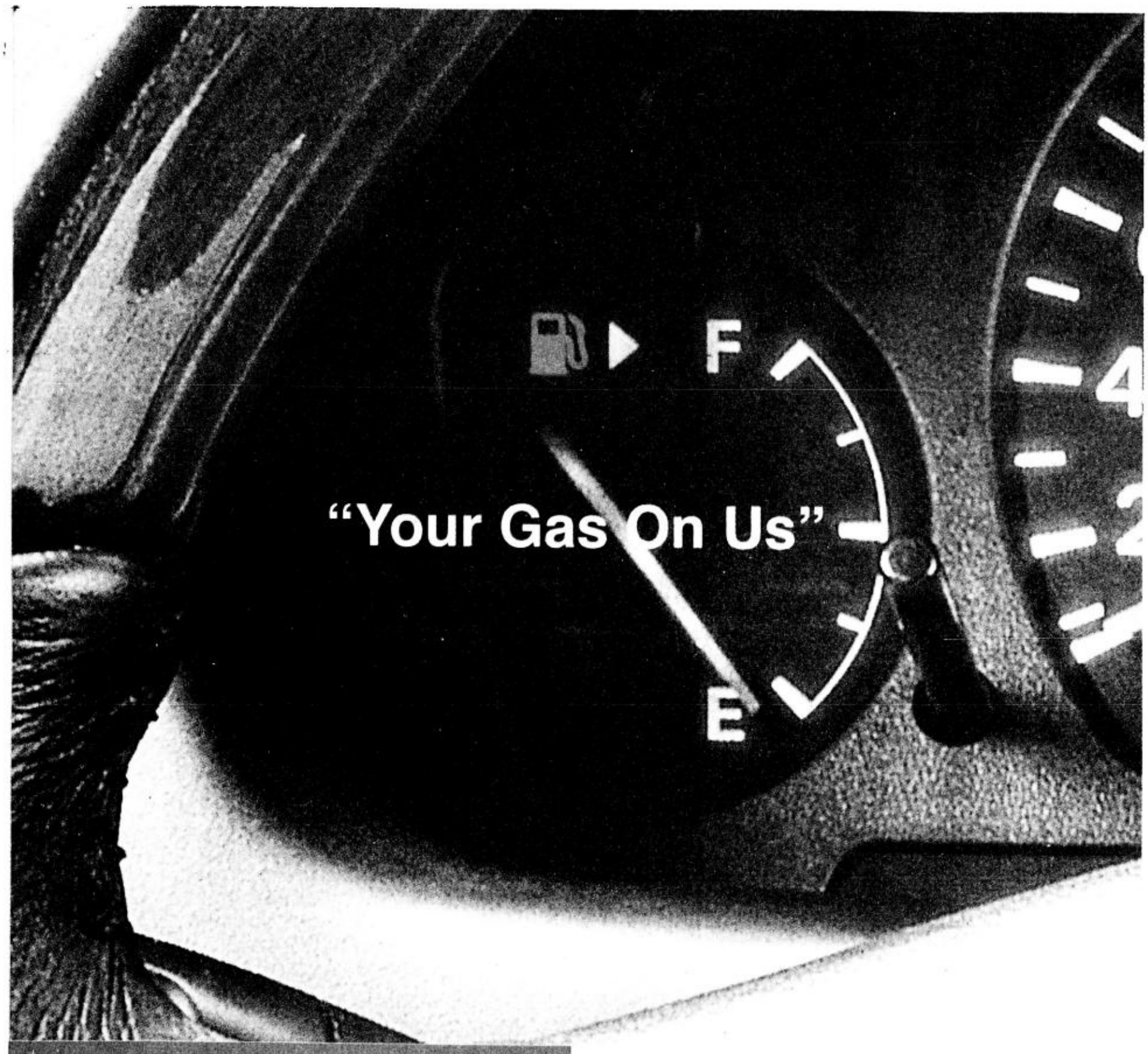
Joining a male-dominated firm was not easy. But the firm values professional excellence, it was easy to bridge the gap between gender and performance, academic training and client service.

I am completing 36 years of my career with the PricewaterhouseCoopers organization in July 2001 of which 20 years was as CEO of PWC Philippines. As I retire as its CEO, I would like to be able to deliver to my successor an organization far stronger and more respected professionally and more committed to national development goals than what I have inherited from my predecessors.

Only then will I consider myself as having been a good steward of a firm about to celebrate its 80th year of service to our clients and the nation.

May I still be around to toast its first centenary while I can still play 18 holes of golf, without a cart, more than once a week.

(This article contains the speech delivered by the author, who is a member and past president of the Management Association of the Philippines and chair/senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan & Co./PricewaterhouseCoopers Philippines, at the 6th Annual MAP Management Conference on March 20, 2001. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)



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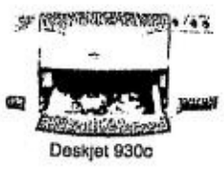
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Shopwise, the first supercenter in the Philippines, presents another first to address the hassles that a modern lifestyle brings. Starting last Saturday, Shopwise Makati (Vito Cruz Extension corner Pasong Tamo) offers its customers free valet parking service for a minimum purchase of P150. A first among retailers, the valet service is available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily for all Shopwise Makati customers. The service can take away a lot of the hassles of grocery shopping.

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Swinging Sydney has a variety of sightseeing tours to pick from. Enjoy the great outdoors for one whole day at the breathtaking Blue Mountain and at the awesome Australian Wildlife Park. Or for a truly unique Aussie experience, visit the historic Gledswood Farm which dates back to the year 1810 and see dogs work on a flock of sheep... a stockman shearing sheep... spectacular colonial gardens... and delight in some wine-tasting before a real sumptuous Barbecue Lunch. Or check out the famous Sydney Harbor, which is still the best way to see Sydney, via the Captain Cook Luncheon Cruise – get a stunning view of the Harbour Bridge and the bustling al fresco cafes and outdoor pubs. Or catch the best in entertainment, shopping and dining at the city and at the FOX Studios where you can experience what it is like in the movie world

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While in Melbourne, relive the history and excitement of Victoria's goldrush days at Sovereign Hill. The place is alive with miners panning for real gold. Main Street bustles with characters dressed in costume of the period. And you can take a ride through the streets in a horse-drawn carriage! There are shops, hotels, schools, a theatre, crafts, steam-driven machinery, working plant and an underground mine, all known to have existed in Ballarat during the 1850s. The Great Ocean Road, on the other hand, features everything from beautiful surf beaches, serene bays and inlets to rugged cliffs, huge rocky outcrops and lush rainforest

For those who love the feel of sand in their toes and riding the waves, Gold Coast / Brisbane is the place to be. The Sunshine Coast offers miles and miles of beachfront where you can frolic under the heat of the Australian sun. For those who love the outdoors, Mt Tamborine, Springbrook, Tropical Fruitworld and Paradise Country gives you breathtaking views of waterfalls, rainforests and an extensive range of native plants growing side by side with exotic fruit and flowering trees. Then there is the famous SeaWorld, MovieWorld or Dreamworld's 12 themed parks, all of which will surely amaze and amuse the family.

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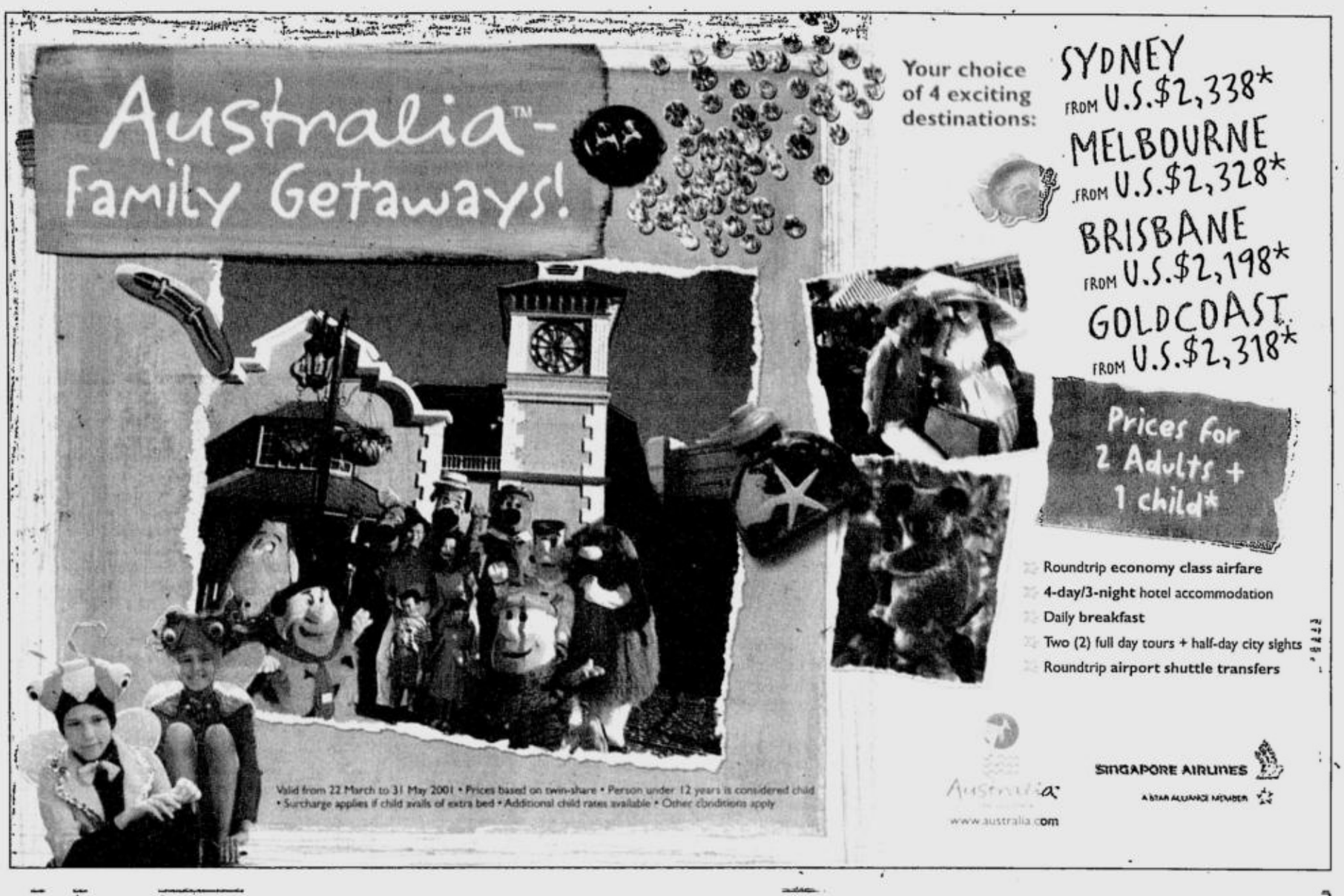
For more information and bookings, please contact your favorite travel agent or call the Singapore Airlines Tours Desk at 751-5151 to 52 or 810-4960 locals 4005 or 4006



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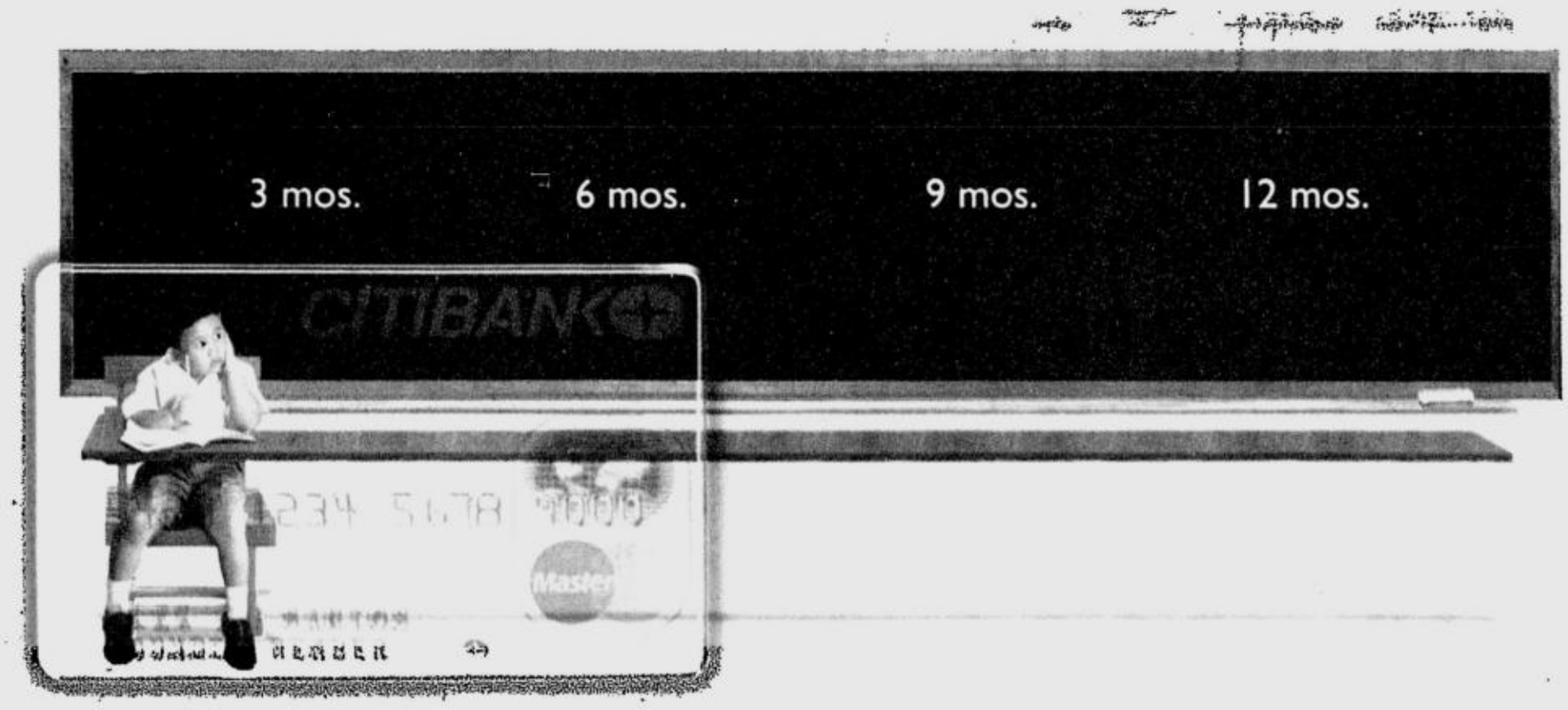

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0523, Series of 2001

CITIBANK

Doctor-turned-CEO prevents corporate ills by giving staff a voice

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

JOHN L. Evangelista spent 12 years of his life to get a medical degree and then a master's degree in health care ethics. But when he finally got it, he had to give it up in favor of a career in management.

Evangelista, however, says the medical degree and his medical background are invaluable in managing over 600 doctors and medical staff of Healthway Medical Clinics, the largest chain of outpatient clinics in Metro Manila, where he sits as the chief executive officer.

"Being a doctor myself I can relate to the problems and challenges faced by our doctors here and we can speak the same language. This helps me manage the doctors who are used to doing things their own way," Evangelista explains.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

Evangelista got his medical degree from the University of the East. He proceeded to the University of Navarre in Pamplona, Spain for post graduate studies. When he changed careers to management, he went to the Ateneo de Manila University and got a master's degree in hospital administration.

It was during this time that he got the idea of putting up outpatient clinics as he saw that patients were not being serviced well by the large hospitals because of the sheer volume.

He says he was inspired by the trends toward ambulatory or outpatient clinic facilities in the United States and Europe.

Evangelista started the Mediserv Group of Companies which was the first outpatient clinic in Manila. It was not so successful because he was operating opposing businesses—an HMO card and outpatient clinic.

EVANGELISTA

The HMO side hoped that few patients would actually use the card while the outpatient clinic wanted more patients to survive.

"I learned a lot from that experience and I am applying what I learned to Healthway. Healthway, for instance, is not an HMO but services the requirements of the HMOs so we are concentrating on getting patients to use our facilities," Evangelista says.

At Healthway, Evangelista says doctors, nurses and other medical staff are encouraged to participate in the management of the clinics through the medical advisory board. The doctors themselves elect the members of the board so it gives them a way to make their opinions heard.

"We involve them in management even if it is just in an advisory capacity because they are part of the successful running of these facilities. We also try to open communication lines with them so that their concerns are raised and issues are resolved," Evangelista says.

As for the clinic staff, Evangelista says Healthway invests in leadership training that helps inculcate a sense of entrepreneurship among the employees.

"We want them to look at Healthway as a business endeavor, we want them to participate fully in thinking of ways to increase revenues and to cut on costs. We also want them to think of ways to improve service," he says.

He stresses that greater participation is crucial in creating an effective organization as the doctors and the ordinary staff feel that they are part of an organization's growth.

"When they see that their ideas are being implemented, they feel good and this translates to an organization that can provide quality service to the clients," Evangelista says.

Healthway Medical Clinics is a chain of outpatient centers located in major shopping malls and business centers. These outpatient clinics offer comprehensive medical service under one roof and onsite access to doctors, specialists and diagnostic, clinic evaluation and testing facilities.

Evangelista says he picked up management skills while he was abroad and got exposed to how medical facilities were run in other countries. He says he initially felt bad about giving up a medical career but says he still feels close to his medical background since he is involved in a health facility.

"The trend now is in health management because people are becoming more health conscious. By offering a facility like this, we encourage people to go to a doctor even if they are not yet really sick, unlike before when people only see a doctor if they are not feeling well," he explains.

MOVEMENTS

SMC names new secretary

SAN Miguel Corp. announced today the appointment of its senior vice president and general counsel, Francis H. Jardeleza, as corporate secretary effective April 2, 2001. He will succeed Justice Jose Y. Feria who has retired.

JARDELEZA

Jardeleza served as SMC assistant corporate secretary for over 10 years, and was appointed San Miguel senior vice president and general counsel in 1996, a position he occupies up to the present. He earned a Master of Laws degree from the Harvard Law School in 1977 after graduating salutatorian and cum laude from the University of the Philippines College of Law. He placed third in the 1974 Bar examinations. He was also a professional lecturer in remedial and constitutional law at the UP College of Law and a lecturer in corporation law at the UP Law Center, as well as a past president of the UP Law Alumni Association.

Midas-Kapiti's new manager

VOS

HANK Vos is now Midas-Kapiti International's managing director, Universal Banking Division. Vos brings over 15 years of experience in the areas of banking and information technology. After graduating in Australia with a Bachelors of Science in Computer Science, Vos landed several roles in succession as programmer, designer, analyst and finally, project manager in the manufacturing, telecommunications and banking industries.

He eventually left his senior project manager role at Westpac, one of the four largest Australian banks, to become the systems development manager for Price Waterhouse.

Vos' consulting career started at Cardinal Network where he was a senior consultant/project manager. Financial Network Services brought Vos to the Middle East and Europe before he finally settled in the Philippines to manage two retail banking projects. For the following two years, he took on the role of sales executive before moving back to Sydney to help ACT Financial Systems market its front-office funds management system, Apollo.

Microwarehouse welcomes new prexy

MICROWAREHOUSE, one of the country's information technology products distributor, announces it has a new president who is backed up by top caliber new officers.

Microwarehouse managing director Generoso Villanueva recently promoted Cynthia H. Veloria as president of Microwarehouse Inc. Veloria has been with Microwarehouse since 1995 and has been previously appointed as vice president for sales and marketing. In such a capacity, Microwarehouse has successfully expanded its channel coverage and implemented exciting promotional and marketing programs to motivate its channel partners to support the leading brands carried by the company.

Villanueva stated: "I don't think there's anyone more qualified for this position than Cynthia Veloria. She is a proven leader for Microwarehouse and the industry as a whole."

Microwarehouse also welcomes three new young officers who will be heading various departments.

The new marketing communications manager of Microwarehouse Inc. is Aya C. Palmera. She finished Visual Communications at the University of the Philippines and used to handle accounts for McCann-Erickson Philippines, some of which are Sprite, Lift and RTO. She was awarded as the McCann-Erickson Rookie of the Year 2000. At 23, she was named as an Internet specialist of the Coca-Cola account and was one of the people behind the success of "Sprite Magpakatotoo ka on the Net!" a project which was named as one of the best Internet programs of the Coca-Cola Co. in the Asia-Pacific region.

For Microwarehouse, Palmera will be using her knowledge on marketing, advertising and the Internet to handle image building, marketing program preparation, special events coordination, promotions planning, advertising, PR and publicity, information dissemination, market research, website development and maintenance.

The new Microwarehouse sales manager is Eric Sulit. He graduated from DLSU engineering and is finishing his MBA at the Ateneo de Manila University in Makati. Sulit was previously an account and product manager for eCommerce and integration solutions at InterCommerce Network Services Inc.—a joint venture of Smart Communications and General Electric Global Exchange Services.

As sales manager, Sulit will be handling Microwarehouse's sales, product management and business development groups.

Microwarehouse's new business development manager is Elbert Cuenca. Prior to joining the team of Microwarehouse, Cuenca was the general manager of Mobile 1, a retail operation at Park Square 1 and Greenbelt Makati that specializes in Mobile digital gadgets.

As business development manager, Cuenca handles mobile computing products for the enterprise. His goal is to bring the Palm handheld computer into every business as an enterprise tool. This means that the Palm is deployed to fulfill mobile and wireless computing requirements, therefore increasing productivity.

APC Power Protection Solutions for the Home and Office

Protect your PC System with APC's Back-UPS®

According to a study by IBM, your PC system is subject to an average of 128 power disturbances per month. An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) is an indispensable component of any computer system because you never know when a power disturbance is going to strike.

Power disturbances such as surges, sags, blackouts and brownouts can seriously damage sensitive electronic equipment and cause computer-system downtime. In fact, power problems are the largest cause of data loss, counting for 45.3% of all problems.

Power disturbances cannot be eliminated, but the damage they cause can be prevented with a UPS, which maintains a steady flow of power until the system can be safely, automatically shut down.

APC's Back-UPS range is an affordable line of reliable UPS products geared for the home or small business. An APC Back-UPS instantly switches your computer to emergency battery backup power and allows you to work through brief power outages or to shut down your system in the event of an extended outage. Even though you may already own an Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR), this alone is not enough to fully protect your PC system as it will not provide EMI/RFI filtering, back-up power or power management like an APC Back-UPS.

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- Compact design Back-UPS is available in a space-saving design for desktop computers

Standard AVR Versus APC Back-UPS Features

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surge protection	yes	yes
EMI/RFI filtering	no	yes
back-up power	no	yes
power management	no	yes

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Tech company stock buybacks may be savvy

LOS ANGELES—Investors aren't the only ones snatching up cheap technology stocks, betting that share prices have hit bottom and counting on big returns once the market recovers.

Among top names in technology, International Business Machines Corp. this week announced it would buy back up to $3.5 billion of its own stock and Oracle Corp. said it would buy up to $3 billion of its stock.

Share buyback programs are nothing new, but experts say the time may be ripe for some cash-rich companies to send a message to the market that they have confidence in their own business.

If the downturn in technology stocks has indeed ended, as some analysts believe, these companies also could stand to make tidy profits on their investment.

"The main reason for this trend is that their stocks are depressed, so it represents a good value for companies to retire shares," Peter Rogers, head of research at WR Hambrecht & Co. "You always see share buybacks in market corrections."

With many technology stocks and the tech-heavy Nasdaq near annual lows, share repurchases are a solid way for companies to show the market they are so convinced their stock will recover, they'll sink their own cash into the shares.

Companies buying many of their shares can also boost the value of their stock, as strong demand tends to create at least a short-term uptick in share prices. With fewer shares in the market and equivalent market demand, stock prices should rise.

"It's a way to enhance value to the shareholders who stick with you," Harvard Business School finance professor Samuel Hayes said.

Plus, a smaller number of shares outstanding means that equivalent earnings will look larger in terms of earnings per share. Companies such as IBM and Microsoft Corp. are known for repurchasing stock and taking other measures to enhance the closely watched earnings per share values, analysts said.

A signal of health, extra cash

Amid a flurry of layoff and bankruptcy announcements, technology companies are eager to distinguish themselves as outside the fray.

Announcing a share buyback plan shows the market the company is confident in its long-term business and has enough spare cash for the transaction.

""I think 90 percent of it now is signaling," said Pip Coburn, global technology strategy analyst with UBS Warburg. "I think tech companies are trying to give some ray of hope that the long-term future is still very, very positive."

For example, headset maker Plantronics in February announced a buyback of up to one million shares after its stock lost half its value in three weeks.

"Our board of directors believes that Plantronics stock presents an attractive investment for the company and its stockholders," Plantronics chief financial officer Barbara Scherer said in a statement.

Similarly, Texas Instruments Inc., the world's No. 1 mobile phone chip maker, announced a 17-million share buyback program on April 18, the day after it said it would lay off 2,500 employees. That buyback would total $650.25 million as of that day's closing share price.

After Internet companies failed to post the exponential growth expected of them and a weaker economy crippled technology stocks, executives are eager to persuade investors their long-term growth models remains intact.

"When you do a projection of recovered earnings levels, (this) is seen as a cheap price to pay for the future level of earnings expected from the stock," Harvard's Hayes said.

Unspent cash

Yet a still soft market for their products and services in the near-term has left many technology companies with unspent cash, as rapid expansion plans are curtailed or postponed.

"Companies may find rather than building additional capacity that they won't be able to use for several years, they may be better off buying shares," Hayes said.

Some companies have attributed their buyback program to a need to have shares on hand for employee-incentive programs, such as stock option and employee stock purchase plans.

Oracle, which had nearly $5 billion in cash and short-term investments at the end of Feb. 28, said its stock repurchase plan was intended to offset the dilution of shares distributed to employees. IBM had $3.87 billion in cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities at the end of March.

Microsoft, which had about $30 billion in cash as of March 31, restarted a buyback program last August, with purchases based on the level of stock options among many of its 40,000 employees. The company has not revealed how much it spends buying back its own shares or how many options it grants, but it has some 5.56 billion diluted shares outstanding, compared with 5.54 billion a year ago.

Still, buyback programs are not necessarily a guarantee that companies will actually buy back shares.

Often, companies say their board approved a share buyback program and set a target amount in share or dollar terms. But they are under no obligation to buy shares.

UBS Warburg's Coburn said 80 percent to 90 percent of stock buyback announcements will be viewed as neutral to positive, noting that the market would not look favorably at highly leveraged companies or firms that have to borrow money to buy back shares.

"In this environment it's one thing for Oracle and IBM, who have cash-rich balance sheets," said WR Hambrecht's Rogers. "But there's only a select group of company that can do this." *Reuters*

Spotting an effective eManager

BY JEANNE G. HARRIS, ANNE DONNELLON AND DAVID W. DE LONG

DESPITE the recent slowdown in Internet investment, the demand for effective eManagers continues to grow. Recruiters for Internet pureplays and startups vie with the Fortune 500 to find the most experienced and talented managers to lead their eBusiness efforts.

This shortage exists because not everyone is ready or able to thrive in the eBusiness milieu.

As a result, CEOs face a dual challenge: finding the eManager talent you will need for your company, and avoiding the loss of your own good eManagers to other companies.

To meet both challenges, you will need to identify managers likely to succeed in eCommerce.

Our interviews with more than 80 eManagers uncovered a surprisingly consistent set of attributes for success. As the digital economy continues to transform the business landscape, these attributes will increasingly be needed by every successful executive managing in the digital economy.

The best eManagers are:

• Passionate about the Internet

"I live and breathe this stuff; I read, I surf, I try everything," said one business director for an Internet pureplay. To see the new possibilities that the Internet enables, to understand your customer's perspective, and to assess the considerable technological investments that eBusiness requires, you need to be immersed in the Internet. A seasoned Internet vice president explained, "Passion—is critical because there is so much to do but so little time." Believing that the Internet will "change the world" motivates the kind of extraordinary effort that typifies the eBusiness world. If this passion is lacking, nothing else really matters.

• Energized by taking risks

The eBusiness environment is essentially entrepreneurial, and in entrepreneurial situations risk-taking is essential. Markets are typically not well defined, financial footing is rarely firm and customers and partners need to be won. eManagers must have the energy and will to make rapid assessments of opportunities with minimal data, knowing full well they may be wrong.

eManagers must be willing personally to take risks. The time and resources required to solicit the views of staff are typically not available. Going further, eManagers must be willing to celebrate risk-taking and to accept risk-taking by others, including subordinates.

• Thriving amid ambiguity

When making business decisions, eManagers must work with multiple scenarios, often without good data or any data at all. They must be able to take a few data points and draw appropriate conclusions. The key is being able to work where "nothing is clear and it changes all the time."

Ambiguity shapes roles and performance assessment as well as decision making and resource allocation.

• Voracious learners

One unusual attribute of eBusiness managers is their great hunger to learn new things.

An eBusiness president characterized people he hires as having "inquiring, intellectual minds—minds that search for rambunctiousness of input." These eager learners are constantly reading, listening and observing to gather insights from every possible quarter.

This is not academic curiosity that values learning for its own sake. Rather, it is a desire to constantly take in new information and critically test it against some mental agenda for action.

Voracious learners also know how to unlearn. Operating at eSpeed requires them to quickly let go of ideas that do not work.

More likely to ask for forgiveness than for permission

eManagers have a bias for action. In this, they differ from their more analytical colleagues in traditional settings who prefer to exhaust all methodologies for study before making and implementing a decision. They "think fast and act fast." Successful eManagers learn by doing, being directionally correct and faster than competitors.

• Mentally agile

If the "ready, fire, aim, fire, aim" Internet environment demands a bias for action, it also requires an eManager who is extremely flexible. This sometimes means being able to let go of an idea without giving up on the vision. eManagers typically use what one called a "launch and learn strategy." If they make a mistake, they rapidly admit it and reverse direction.

• Mavericks

eManagers in Internet startups as well as in the eBusiness units of bricks-and-mortar companies must be independent thinkers with the courage of their convictions. This is a characteristic some call "self-confidence" and others call "orneriness."

Sometimes this "thinking otherwise" trait endears a manager to colleagues. And sometimes it does not. In Internet pureplays, for example, the eManager can often revel in an "us against the world" attitude, generating deep respect from coworkers. In traditional companies, however, being a maverick means eManagers must be willing to make recommendations that go against the grain, that change the status quo. Where revolutionary fervor is directed at internal change, the need for courage and conviction must be even greater.

• Possess abundant energy and stamina

Stamina and energy are critical to succeed in this fast-paced environment. The workload is intense. eManagers need to focus on multiple tasks simultaneously and make decisions quickly.

They also need to work in that way indefinitely, for long hours, many days a week. And, as one manager puts it, "It's a marathon, not a sprint." One eBusiness CEO admitted, "My body buzzes 20 hours a day."

While there is some controversy about whether those workload requirements are real or perceived, most eManager roles entail them. This may be a reason why seasoned managers are choosing not to move into e-management roles, despite the need for their experience.

The physical ability to work even longer hours under intense pressure remains an important distinguishing feature of effective eManagers.

Those individuals who meet all these criteria may well have the personal characteristics needed to succeed as eManagers. eManagers interviewed in our study claimed that several personal attributes were more important in eBusiness than in traditional companies, and that success was not so much about knowledge as about attributes.

Of course, success in eBusiness also requires key professional capabilities such as the ability to make decisions quickly, build rapport with partners and possess a certain level of technological literacy. A person who possesses these characteristics, along with the eight mentioned above, is a strong candidate for eManagement success.

Jeanne G. Harris, associate partner—Strategy & Business Architecture and senior research fellow—Accenture Institute for Strategic Change, is based in Northbrook, Illinois, US (jeanne.g.harris@accenture.com).

Anne Donnellon, associate professor of management—F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business, Babson College (donnellon@babson.edu).

David W. De Long, research fellow—Accenture Institute for Strategic Change, is based in Boston, Massachusetts, US (ddelong@world.std.com).

Seaweed . . .

(From page C1)

"I grew up loving the sea, swimming in these waters, and I would like my kids and others to enjoy the sea as I did," he explains.

He is also prepared to fight for Colgate's continued patronage. "I'll go to the media and I'll go to the courts if needed," he says.

For Dakay, remaining in business is a continuing struggle—from fighting for the entry of his carrageenan products in the United States, going against big companies and some legislators, and in Europe against several countries.

Despite the difficulties he encounters, he says the business is worth it.

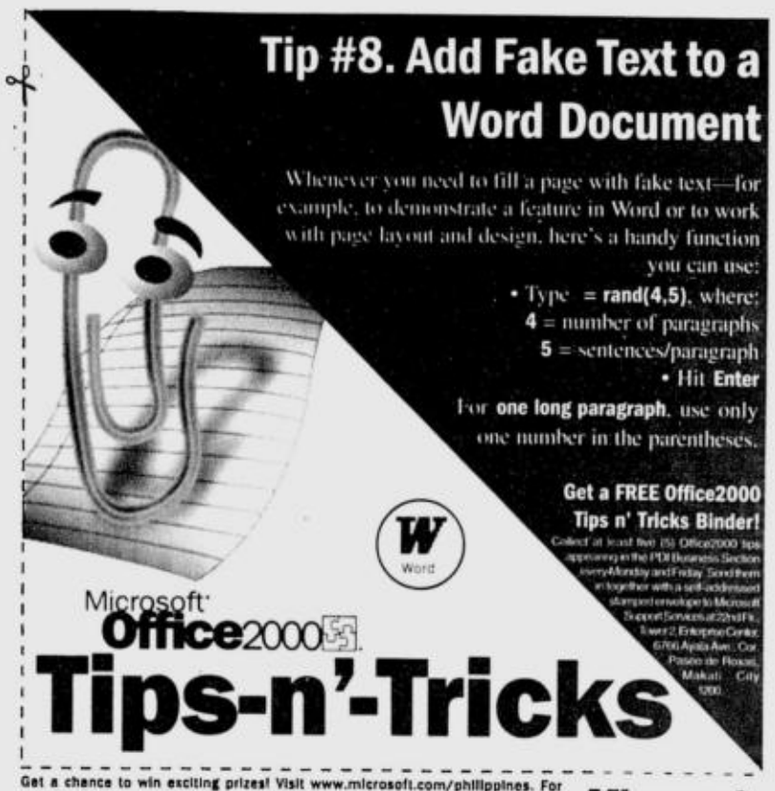
"Anyway, the company (Shemberg Corp.) has recovered. The market is growing for Shemberg Marketing in Mandaue, Pollysaccharide in Zamboanga and Shemberg Food Ingredients in Mactan," he says.

Tip #8. Add Fake Text to a Word Document

Whenever you need to fill a page with fake text—for example, to demonstrate a feature in Word or to work with page layout and design, here's a handy function you can use:

• Type = rand(4,5), where:
4 = number of paragraphs
5 = sentences/paragraph
• Hit Enter

For one long paragraph, use only one number in the parentheses.



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Microsoft

American networks retool Web strategies

LOS ANGELES—When cable television's Comedy Central launched its new and improved Internet site last week, it did something few of the major networks have dared to do in recent months: expand its Web presence.

In fact, many of the major networks have spent recent months licking their wounds over failed attempts at building Web "portals"—websites that act as a jump off point for all kinds of other sites.

In the period of soul-searching now underway, the new Comedy Central site could provide a glimpse into what future sites may look like, combining original and existing programming with competitions and general silliness to create a community for lovers of comedy.

Then again, the site could also end up as the latest in a long string of failed models on the cyberspace scrap heap.

For now, the only thing the networks seem certain of is that portals aren't the way to go.

ABC parent The Walt Disney Co. was the first to make the discovery in January when it said it would scrap its Go.com portal site, lay off 400 employees and take a second quarter charge of more than $800 million for the overhaul of its Web operations. The company also said it would dissolve its Internet tracking stock which was launched with fanfare less than two years earlier.

NBC, a unit of General Electric Co., made a similar discovery this month when it said it would buy the stake it did not own in its Internet portal, NBCi, and lay off most of the unit's 350 employees.

CBS president Leslie Moonves commented in a speech last month on how his network, a unit of Viacom Inc., never jumped on the portal bandwagon. He also hinted at a strategy that may soon become the new catch phrase among TV networks in cyberspace: vertical integration.

Be specific

Moonves alluded to the strategy when he mocked a consultant who—in the glory days of the portal—said "anyone who doesn't have a significant share (of consumer use) is just a website."

"Just a damn website? Maybe," Moonves said. "But put a few of those together, really good ones that people want to go to over and over again, and pretty soon you just might have the beginnings of a strategy. That's where we put our energy."

Moonves went on to cite CBS ventures such as financial site CBS/MarketWatch, sports site CBS/Sportsline and health site CBS/HealthWatch as examples of three vertically integrated units that draw on the network's specific areas of expertise to form synergistic relationships.

At NBC, the network is still overhauling its operations following the recent NBCi announcement, said Marty Yudkovitz, president of NBC digital media.

"We will be doing more of this vertical integration route—sometimes by ourselves and sometimes in partnerships," he said. "NBCi is basically gone . . . The idea is to go vertical with extensions of various brands."

Yudkovitz said NBC's various new series of subject specific sites will look much like CBS', and will include news and sports site MSNBC.com, finance site CNBC.com and the like. In the latest move to strengthen its position, NBC said on Monday it will combine CNBC.com with the finance section from Microsoft Corp.'s to create a stronger financial site.

Programming dilemma

A more problematic area for the networks is what to do with their entertainment sites, which have largely been demoted to little more than promotional areas for their on-air programs.

Fox, a unit of News Corp. Ltd., uses its fox.com site largely to promote its shows at the moment, though the network is planning to relaunch the site later this year, said spokesman Scott Grogin.

NBC is also overhauling its entertainment site in the wake of its NBCi debacle, Yudkovitz said.

Among the other two networks, ABC has been more active in its development of interactive online programming. Through its enhanced TV initiative, the network now has interactive online applications for its Monday Night Football franchise and its popular game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

In "Millionaire," for example, viewers can go to the ABC website during the show and get information on additional things that are happening as they happen. They can also play along, earning points not only for accuracy but also for speed, said Dick Glover, executive vice president for new media at the Walt Disney Internet Group.

While the networks have taken a cautious approach in their entertainment sites, the new Comedy Central site offers a glimpse of some of the things the majors could someday offer.

Among other things, the site features "Improv," a five-minute video clip changed daily of stand-up comics from the comedy club of the same name; "Whenever," a talk show where visitors submit comedic material for virtual host Bob Morgan; and "Homegrown Humor," a site where people can submit their own comedic jokes, video clips and the like for an eventual shot at being discovered.

"Our philosophy is we're not trying to just do traditional promotions," said Kenneth Locker, Comedy Central's senior vice president of enterprises and new media. "We're trying to extend story lines, trying to extend the look and concept of the show into a true Web environment." *Reuters*

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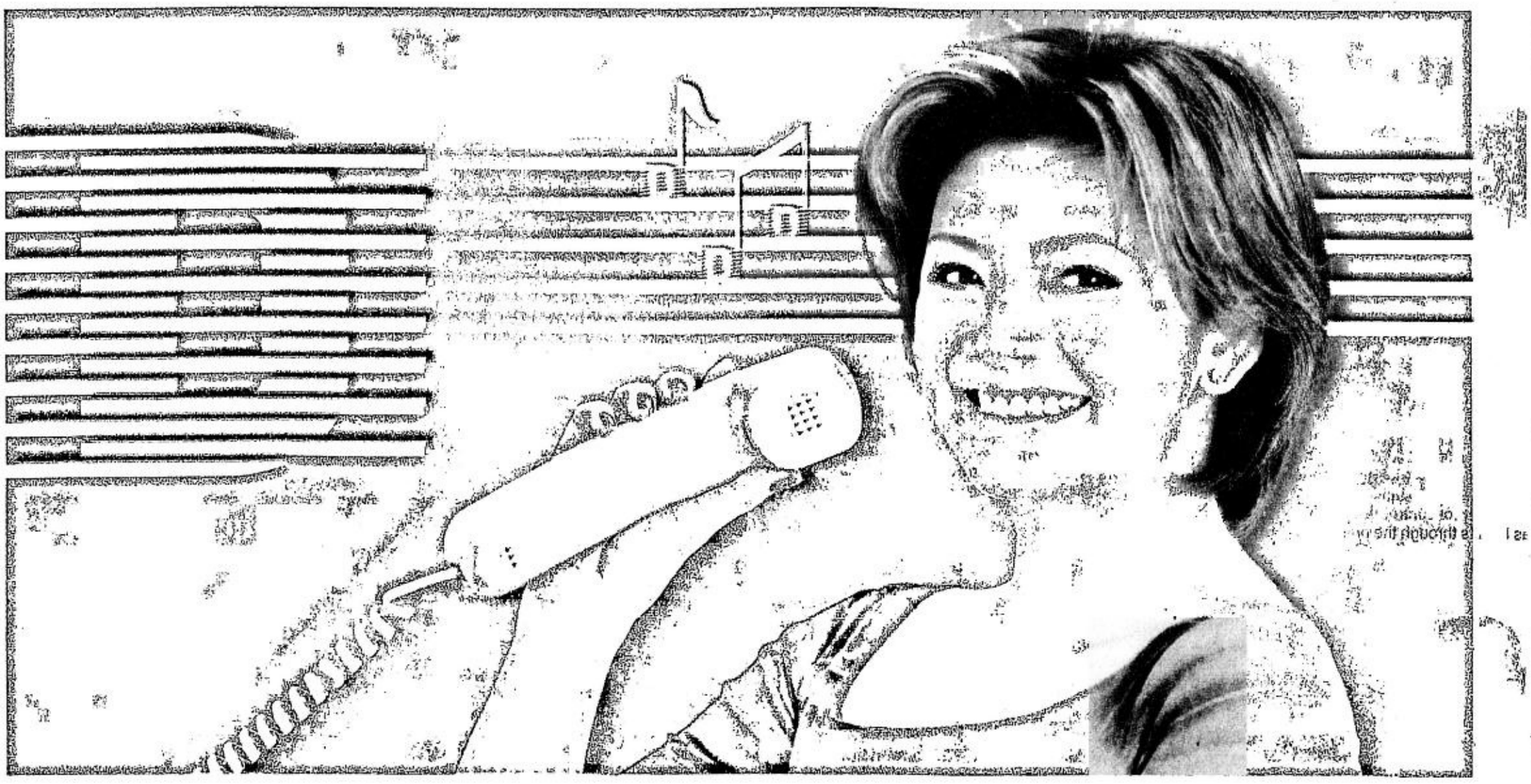

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Estrada ouster boosted listed firms' outlook for the year

Optimism may be quashed if former president's supporters create political uncertainty, instability

THE TENSION-FILLED stockholders meeting of Equitable PCI Bank was one of the most exciting for this season, which saw the resignation of the bank's president Wilfrido Guevarra and the battle of the government and the Go family for control. The bank's chairman, Peter Go Pailan, looks somber as he sits through the proceedings. ROMY HOMILLADA

PETER Go Pailan and his family was accused by GSIS president Winston Garcia of blocking moves to rehabilitate the country's third largest bank. (Shown here with corporate secretary Nilo Divina and president Wilfrido Guevara who resigned.) ROMY HOMILLADA

HENRY Sy Sr., the patriarch of the SM group of companies, has reason to feel optimistic as his company readies to enter into a joint venture with property developer Belle Corp. of the Tagaytay Highlands fame. ROMY HOMILLADA

IF LAST year's stockholders meetings were uneventful, this year was a little bit more exciting as chief executive officers and members of the board of directors of various companies expressed more confidence about the future of their operations.

The most exciting so far was the Equitable PCI Bank meet which saw its president, Wilfrido Vergara, quit, citing too much government interference in the running of the bank.

It will be recalled that funds from the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System were allowed by then President Estrada to be used by Equitable Bank to buy majority of PCI Bank.

The two government financial institutions now want to have a say in the management of the bank. The bigger news was that the star witness against Estrada during the impeachment trial, Clarissa Ocampo, also tendered her resignation as an official of the bank.

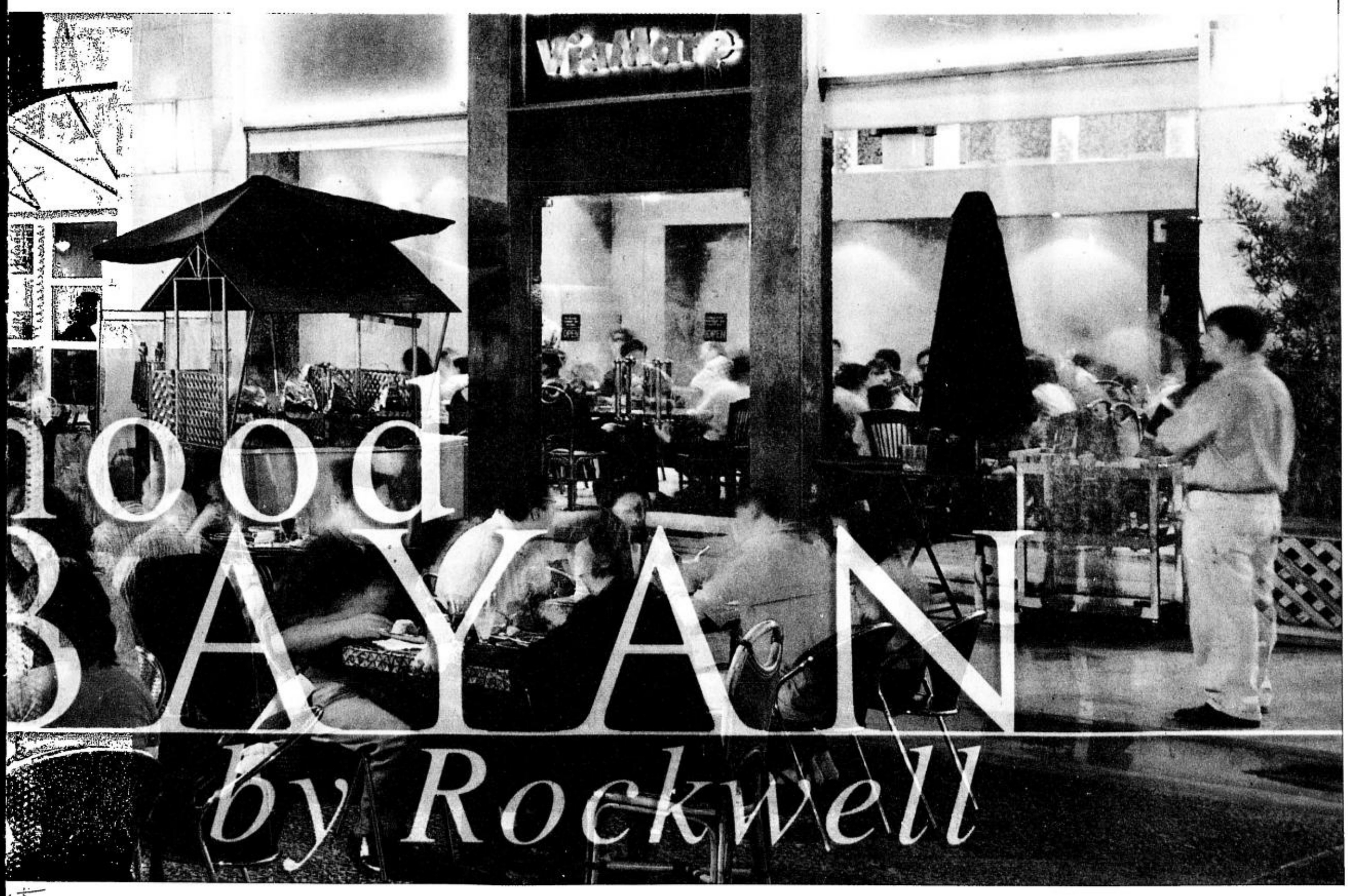
Meantime, most of the listed companies that held their stockholders meetings over the past weeks reported good first quarter results and many are looking forward to ending the year with profit and sales exceeding last year's figures.

There are those of course which are continu

ESTRADA/ C8

ROBERTO Romulo and John Gokongwei Jr. were among the directors reelected to the Anscor board. The company expressed plans to explore investment opportunities in the IT sector. BETOY JOHNSON

JAIME Augusto Zobel de Ayala (with Ariston Estrada Jr.) was confident that the economy is well on its way to a complete recovery with renewed investor confidence in the country and in the company. ROGER CARPIO



Who's bullish about the Philippines?

ONE of the secrets to a company's staying power is its ability to adapt and adjust to the global changes that are taking place, said Nestle Philippines Inc. chair and CEO Juan B. Santos at the Honorary Investment and Trade Representatives (HITR) Conference sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry.

"We are convinced that all the economic difficulties which we now face are only temporary setbacks, and our resolve to be cost-efficient and world-competitive operators cannot be postponed by these temporary difficulties. The business environment has been changing, imposing new conditions on our operations to which we have always managed to adapt. Our ability to do so has enabled us to remain viable, allowing our company to survive and succeed," said Santos in a speech on the Nestle experience of doing business in the Philippines.

According to Santos, the country has an abundance of highly capable professionals and workers who are at par or even better than their counterparts in other countries.

"The Philippines offers a reservoir of educated, English-speaking and easily trained if not already skilled manpower, with highly capable managers who are amenable to overseas postings," he added.

Santos also cited government policies that support the development of the local economy. These policies, he said, include the protection of intellectual property rights, the passage of the trade liberalization law and the E-commerce law.

"Our business structure has to change because of these realities, and this requires us to carefully study the alternatives if we are to maintain our competitiveness," said Santos.

Meantime, Waterfront Philippines Inc. says the past two years may not have been auspicious for tourism but the year 2001 seems to offer bright prospects for the industry.

This is the outlook of WPI, owner and operator of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, Waterfront Mactan Airport Hotel and Casino and Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao.

Reporting on their business performance in 1999 and 2000, the Waterfront group recalled that the said years were besieged with economic downturns particularly in the tourism industry. WPI noted that, in general, the sector experienced a substantial decrease in foreign guests and an increase in foreign debt servicing costs owing to the weakening of the peso.

With the advent of the new administration, however, and the appointment of former Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Richard Gordon as tourism secretary, the Waterfront group expressed bullishness for Philippine tourism.

Speaking for the Waterfront Group, president and CEO Donato Almeda said that with his track record as chair of SBMA and well-known management prowess, the new secretary can definitely turn around Philippine tourism, giving it the much-needed boost to make it a top dollar-earner and thus contribute significantly to what has been referred to as "an uphill task of economic recovery."

Talking to the press, Gordon said that "more important than marketing the Philippines internationally is to market the country to our own people not just by way of domestic tourism; people have to attain a culture of tourism."

He explained that among his aims are "to make people know that promoting tourism is not just the job of the President or the tourism secretary but the job of everyone and to create value-added tourism." He also cited the relevance of peace and order and clean surroundings to tourism and as a first step, ordered the cleaning up of Naia, Intramuros and schools around the fort. Likewise, he talked about the need for more air access by foreign tourists. In terms of aviation policies, he stated that he would push for progressive liberalization and for Philippine Airlines to be more competitive.

The Waterfront group expressed support for Gordon's agenda and said this, along with recent developments in the travel industry, augurs well for tourism.

In Cebu, for instance, Almeda cited the opening of more flights from countries such as Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Korea, saying this will definitely increase tourist arrivals this year. This is in addition to other developments in the property and other sectors in the city, expected to stimulate business activities here, thus further boosting local tourism.

The Cebu City government, recognizing the potential of Cebu as a premier tourist destination in the country, is also bent on promoting local tourism as seen in tourism infrastructure projects that are now in the pipeline.

Cebu is the site of WPI's two hotels, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, located in Lahug, Cebu City and Waterfront Mactan Airport Hotel and Casino, located in nearby Mactan.

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, its flagship hotel, boasts of 562 rooms, the Cebu International Convention Center and other facilities. With its number of rooms, it is now the largest hotel in its class in the region.

Waterfront Mactan Airport Hotel and Casino, on the other hand, has the strategic advantage of being near the airport. Likewise, it houses both the Pagcor Casino Filipino Mactan and a private foreign casino junket room.

Anticipating growth of the market and as part of its expansion plans, Almeda bared that Waterfront Cebu City Hotel has recently added more facilities. He explained that with these new facilities, the hotel will thus be able to offer clients a full range of services at par with competitors and the standards of foreign tourists and the corporate market. (The flagship hotel has successfully captured a huge segment of the corporate market, with its convention facility Cebu International Convention Center.)

Its new facilities include a swimming pool with a garden theme suited for outside functions, a first-class fitness gym and spa. Room capacity has also been expanded with additional 200 de luxe and suite rooms.

All these are in line with the hotel's thrust to improve its image and category as a world-class five-star hotel and in line with its objective to be recognized as "the premier business and entertainment destination in Cebu."

SANTOS: We are convinced that all the economic difficulties which we now face are only temporary.

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AYALA Land Inc. president Francisco H. Licuanan III discloses plans to expand shopping centers, adding that the company remains on the lookout for property that will meet its strategic objectives of being at the forefront of real estate development. ROGER CARPIO

Estrada ouster . . .

(From page C7)

ing their restructuring efforts and are still far from going back to the glory years before the Asian crisis hit the Philippines in 1997.

Chief executive officers cited the return of investor confidence in the country following the ouster of President Estrada as a major reason behind the good first quarter performance.

Gains, however, may be erased once again if renewed political uncertainties escalate because of the rallies of Erap's supporters who protested the imprisonment of their fallen leader.

ROGER CARPIO

ZOBEL brothers Jaime Augusto and Fernando confer with Ayala executives Ariston Estrada Jr. and Naoyuki Nobe after the stockholders meeting where the company announced an investment of P47 billion for expansion.

ANDRES Soriano III, chief executive officer of A. Soriano Corp., answers a query from a stockholder during the meeting last April 20. He is joined by fellow directors Roberto Romulo and John Gokongwei Jr. (partly hidden). BETOY JOHNSON

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. president Napoleon Nazareno expects that the company will post P5 billion in losses this year due to increasing marketing expenses for its cellular phone service. ROGER CARPIO

THE SEEMINGLY casual pose of Piltel's board members and officers hide the concerns over staggering debts and difficulty beating competition. ROGER CARPIO

SM PRIME director Henry T. Sy Jr. discusses retail development plans of the SM malls during the stockholders meeting. With him are directors Herbert Sy, Senen Mendiola and Emmanuel C. Paras. ROGER MARGALLO

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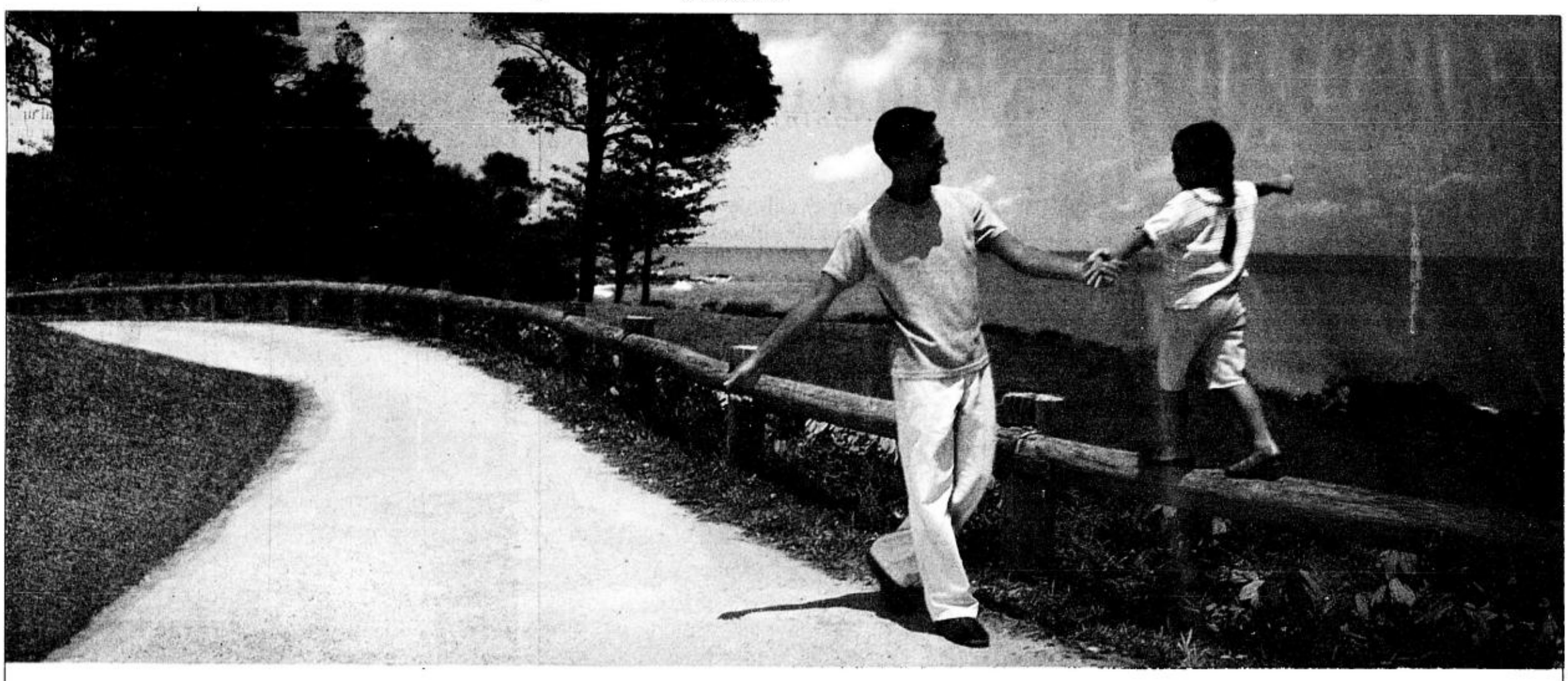

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Translating growth into income for farmers

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

WHILE his predecessors put much regard on agricultural growth targets, newly installed Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor has set his sights on how to translate these numbers into income for the farmers.

"The figures may be very high but if these do not translate to better lives and better income for the farmers, these statistics will be useless," says Montemayor in an interview.

Montemayor notes that the Department of Agriculture will not only be concerned with the growth in production output but also in improving the farmers' and fisherfolks' income in the long term.

"Our primary concern and what we should ask is if our farmers are earning enough? They may be producing and feeding the others but if we are starving the farmers and they are unable to send their kids to school because their income from production are not enough . . . ," adds Montemayor.

His line of thinking and commitment to the farmers stems from his early exposure to them as a teenager. When his father conducted meetings and consultations with farmer-members of the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) in their hometown in Alaminos, Pangasinan, Montemayor tagged along.

The elder Montemayor, Jeremias, established FFF in 1953. The group now has 200,000 members nationwide.

His appointment as agriculture secretary did not come as a surprise as he has been involved with the farmers and fishermen nearly all his life.

"I've been with the farmers' sector movement on a full time basis since after college graduation in 1971. I've been with the federation of farmers and fisherfolk, mainly doing the work of organizing them into a cooperative," he shares.

Following his father's footsteps, the young Montemayor became actively involved in the farmers' advocacy movement. He was eventually named as secretary general of the FFF and was commonly addressed as "Ka Leony."

In March 1993, former President Fidel V. Ramos appointed Montemayor as one the country's Peasant Sector representatives in Congress. He was reappointed in 1995.

During the May 1998 elections, his group—the Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka, Manggagawang-Bukid at Mangingisda (ABA)—won a party-list seat in Congress.

His first Cabinet designation is a challenge for Ka Leony as he would have to strike a balance among the various public and private stakeholders in the farming and fisheries sectors.

"The possibility of having to deal with different perspectives with various interests is always there. But I would like to think that my long years in the sector and my commitment would help me in the decision-making," says Montemayor. "Besides my every move would be carefully observed by my former colleagues—the farmers. *Babantayan ako ng mga kasama.*"

He shares that during his first three weeks, he had meetings with farmers and fishermen, farming machinery groups, food processors and other exporters of agricultural engineering groups and multilateral agencies.

He met with representatives of the multilateral agencies like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank and noticed their leanings on open trade and market-oriented policies.

"But this had to be studied carefully before commitments would be made," says Montemayor.

The country's agricultural trading policy has always been an issue but according to Montemayor, before considering importation, what should first be considered is how to improve local production and productivity.

"If there is a shortage, importation is negotiable," he notes, adding that they might seek an extension of the country's existing quantitative importation restrictions especially if the safety nets are yet to be in place.

Montemayor says these safety nets include infrastructure requirements, post harvest facilities, credit and farm-to-market roads.

MONTEMAYOR

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DoCoMo 3G rollout more about tests

TOKYO—It was touted as a world first—a challenge to "the limits of the mobile frontier"—offering videophones, music downloads and eventually links to computerized driving systems in cars.

What Japanese mobile carrier NTT DoCoMo offered Thursday for its May 30 limited rollout of 3G or third-generation wireless technology was far less ambitious than the promises in its advertisement.

To be sure, a videophone made by Matsushita, or Panasonic, is among the three models offered. But users for all three models will be limited to just 4,000 people in the Tokyo area, chosen at random from applicants. And the handsets can't download music.

The first 3G users won't even be charged for the handsets—only asked questions about the service to help clean up the numerous glitches.

A full-fledged commercial service, still limited to Tokyo, is to start Oct. 1. The 3G service is being planned for both Europe and the United States in the years ahead.

NTT DoCoMo had repeatedly and adamantly promised 3G in Tokyo by late May. But the Tokyo company did an about-face this week, acknowledging that software bugs had hit base stations that send out the waves to the handsets and networks connected to content providers.

The test-run participants will pay fees of about 100 yen (80 cents) or 150 yen ($1.25) for three minutes of video. Talking will cost between 20 yen (16 cents) and 29 yen (24 cents) a minute, the same as the current Internet-linking "i-mode" phones that have attracted nearly 23 million users in Japan.

Besides the Panasonic video phone that will show the caller on the other end of the line on the tiny cell phone screen, an NEC Corp. model is a faster version of the i-mode phones.

The 3G technology can zip data up to 40 times faster than its i-mode counterpart. The third model was a card-type device strictly for data transmission to be inserted into the computer slot designated for hooking up mobile phones.

On 3G, a 250-space e-mail will cost about 0.7 yen (half a cent). Prices for other types of downloads using the cards were still unclear. Discount rates may be offered for heavy users when the service starts in October.

NTT DoCoMo displayed the handsets recently but did not actually run them on the 3G network.

A publicity videotape, which was shown, focused on business use for 3G—a stark contrast to the mass appeal of i-mode for personal e-mail, Mickey Mouse screensavers and restaurant guides.

In one scene, for example, a man at a plant held up his camera-equipped 3G phone to a machine to display a problem to the person at the other end of the line who also had a video phone.

"Corporate applications are what drives the value of the 3G service," said Kirk Broody, an analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein in Tokyo, adding that quick data transmission would be a big plus for businesses. "It's difficult to see how the market will develop, and everyone has to feel their way along."

On Thursday, NTT DoCoMo president Keiji Tachikawa shrugged off the question about video content, saying that was a matter for other businesses hoping to cash in on 3G to answer.

Miffed by questions from reporters about the sudden 3G delay and bruised corporate image, he insisted his company had merely found a wiser way to embark into untested territory.

"This is the new way to start a new service," Tachikawa said.

"People are going to be using it. And we're charging money. It's not some scam."

At the start of 3G, users will be able to look at 180 different kinds of video such as TV news, fishing guides, a comedy channel and movie previews now offered by NTT DoCoMo's service for a gadget called Eggy that went on sale here five months ago, largely to prepare for 3G. Eggy uses a different wireless technology from either i-mode or 3G.

Ryosuke Kishi, executive officer of i-Broadcast, a Tokyo company that designs software for playing video on cell phones, acknowledged it was difficult to foresee much entertainment use for 3G—at least anytime soon.

"People can watch it all on a portable TV—for free. And TV has better sound and image quality," Kishi said. *AP*

EMS: Realizing profits in adopting standards

BY RAMON S. ABRACOSA

MOST of us are familiar with what drives organizations, especially business organizations, to adopt an Environmental Management System (EMS) and obtain ISO certifications.

Many adopt the EMS because of market demand. More buyers require evidence of sound environmental practices from their suppliers. This is now popularly referred to as "greening the supply chain."

Others, on the other hand, do so because of regulatory pressures. A good example is the Clean Air Act whose recently signed implementing rules and regulations provide a grace period for companies to conform with stringent environmental safety standards.

Whatever the reason, those who have adopted EMS realized that there is profit to be made in adopting environmental standards. This is welcome news for companies as environmental rules are expected to get even stricter. It is no longer a question of "if" but of "when" these will be implemented.

EMS can improve one's business bottom line as it helps improve efficiency, attract customers and gain access to foreign markets.

Aside from the bottom line, there is no doubt that every organization is likewise motivated by prospects of an enhanced image associated with having an EMS.

Concerned stakeholders—from disgruntled customers to environmental activists onto well-intentioned regulators—try to look into the way companies conduct their businesses.

A company's worst nightmare is to see supposed lapses in taking care of the environment in print, get aired on radio and televised in TV, or floated in cyberspace at the click of a mouse. Clearly, it helps to be perceived as being socially responsible by having an EMS.

Even the public sector has begun jumping onto the EMS bandwagon. Local government units are integrating EMS into their governance toolbox.

The Department of Trade and Industry's Board of Investments and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) have announced that they will set up an EMS, in an effort to lead industry by example.

Definitely, EMS is evolving into quite a versatile tool for corporate and public sector management. As one of the leading school in Asian management education, these developments are of great importance to AIM.

While the AIM has found out that EMS helps us to cut costs by reducing electricity consumption, water bills, paper and printing waste—there is more at stake for us than the usual bottom line consideration, these are not our main drivers. It is, rather, the need to help students apply environmental management tools.

The AIM is one of eight institutions that launched the Philippine Environment Partnership Program. Together with the DTI, DENR, DOST, DBP, Landbank, Economic Mobilization Group, Union of Local Authorities, and the Industrial Initiatives for a Sustainable Environment—the AIM promotes environmental management on industry, with emphasis on self-regulation.

The AIM's role in the PEPP include:

- To facilitate policy dialogue among government, industry and stakeholder groups to enable a shift from conflict management to cooperation management in addressing industry environmental management issues;
- To conduct policy research to support innovative policy reforms, particularly those that provide incentives and support for industry self-regulation; and
- To develop and offer training programs on environmental management systems and cleaner production.

> Even the public sector has begun jumping onto the EMS bandwagon. Local government units are integrating EMS into their governance toolbox.

BRIONES

Mathematician displays taste for corporate affairs

WHEN Pacific Century CyberWorks chair & CEO Richard Li tried to convince the world he was an IT guru, he dressed down, cut his hair and started wearing eyeglasses instead of contacts, and began talking in technospeak. BayanTrade's director of operations does the opposite. He dresses corporate, hasn't changed his hairstyle or glasses, and talks business.

And his secret passion is news, any kind, and all the time. "I get to the office early to read online publications, and do the same thing in the evening at home when everyone is asleep," he says.

Recently named director of operations after a stint as chief technology officer for BayanTrade, Dante Briones' website preferences reveal an executive with broad interests aside from B2B e-commerce and e-bidding. Favorites on his browser settings include "The New York Times," CNN and CNBC. While he spends time browsing technology news, politics, sports and editorial opinion pieces dominate his reading.

So it's not surprising to learn that one of the Philippines' most prominent IT experts has spent most of his career helping companies manage business processes, supply chains, and procurement rather than setting up IT infrastructure. "I've been considered part of the IT sector for the last decade," Briones explains, "but most of the work I've done has focused on supply chain management. It is more an incidental part of the job."

As director for corporate business systems for JG Summit from 1994 to 1995, Briones led a group-wide business process reengineering initiative. "We looked at all the core processes and redesigned them to increase efficiency and productivity before big enterprise systems made that popular," he says. "And it involved the entire supply chain, not just the group. To achieve the gains we were looking for, we had to look closely at both suppliers and customers as well."

Briones trained to be an engineer, and later a mathematician. After earning an undergraduate degree in engineering from the University of the Philippines, Briones followed up with a master's degree in computational mathematics from Northern Illinois University, earning the honor with a perfect grade point average. He completed all the core courses required for a PhD at Northern Illinois before deciding to return home to the Philippines.

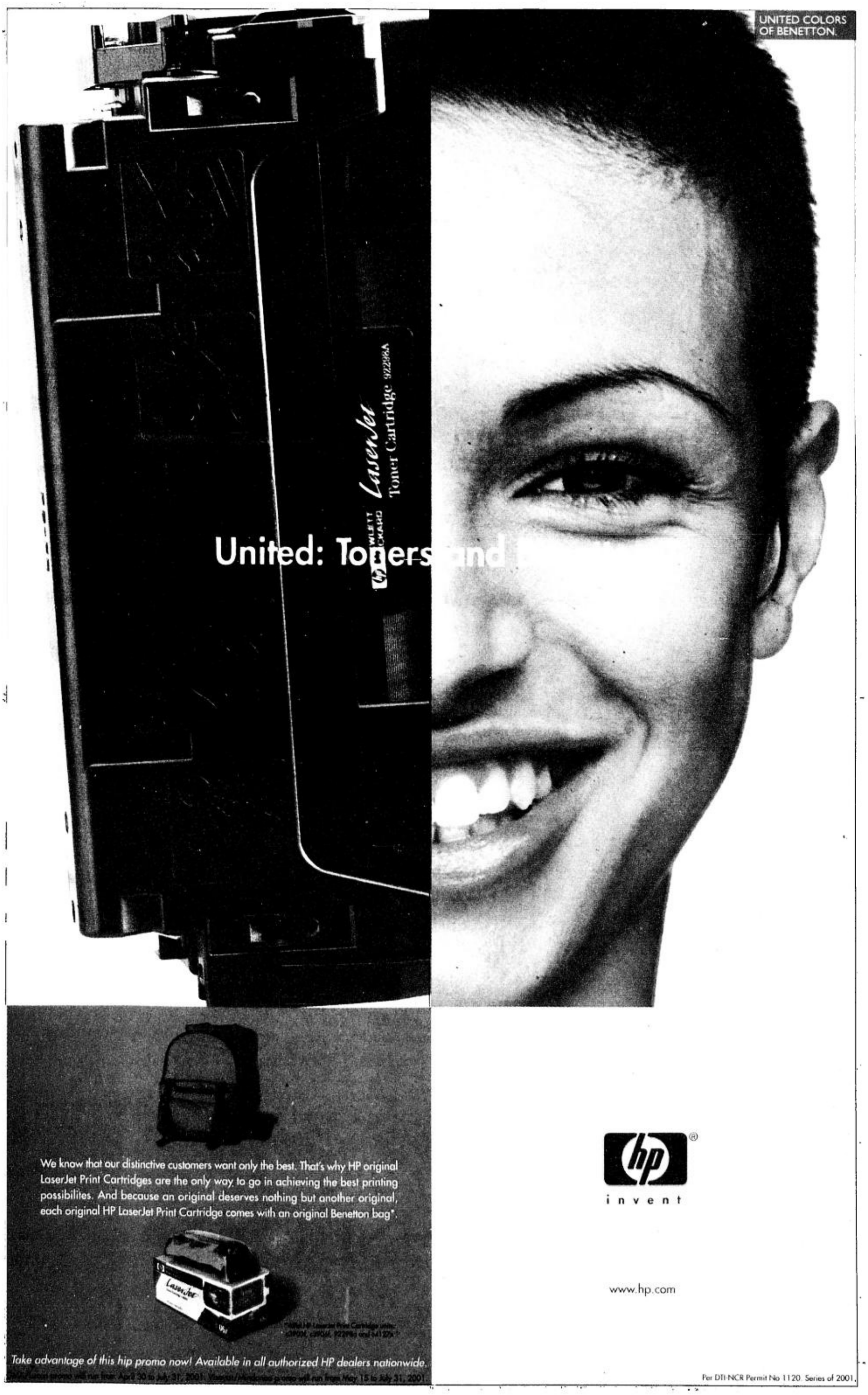
"I used to come home every year to check conditions, and by late 1988 I was convinced of the timing. I completed the next semester and then packed my bags for good," Briones recalls. "My friends all thought I was crazy."

But Briones, who views himself as a patriot, had always intended to return. "It was just a matter of when," he says. "I wanted to play a part, a significant part, in bringing technology and business practice to the Philippines that I learned in the US."

BayanTrade is the perfect place to do so. But perhaps reflecting the other contrasts in Briones' life and career, he doesn't view the company as a dot-com startup. "We are a full-service e-commerce company, not just a portal," he explains. By full service, Briones is referring to professional and value-added services that the company offers buyers and sellers on the network.

Among those services are strategic sourcing, integration services, and content management. "Where most B2B exchanges talk about technology, we talk about business," Briones says. "We're here to provide the full, complete package for buyers and sellers who want to leverage B2B e-commerce to lower costs and open new markets."

So far, it's working. Briones says that unlike many other portals around the world, BayanTrade is meeting its revenue and growth objectives, and is well on the way to profitability despite the current tough times for most technology-based companies. "Our business model works," he says, "because it's based on business fundamentals, like liquidity and performance."



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LIFESTYLE

Arts/Design

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ LITO B. ZULUETA, Subsection Editor

AAP's role in Philippine society

THIS is in response to the article written by Malang (PDI Lifestyle, 04/02/01), wherein the Art Association of the Philippines' activities, especially its membership, were equated only with the annual AAP art competition. Malang recommends that the AAP "close shop" because "it has outlived its purpose"—art competitions being also organized by banks and corporations.

For the record, the AAP has always done other activities aside from the Annual (which is the oldest art competition in the country, now celebrating its 54th year). Among them is the holding of seminars and workshops so that AAP members can develop their intellectual and artistic skills outside of the competition circuit. Since the swearing-in of the current board in April 2000, the following activities have been held for the benefit of its members: seminar on artist's intellectual rights (April 7, 2000, Ayala Museum), on-the-spot sketching tour, Angat River (May 27, Bulacan), exhibition titled "Art@ Discovery-Enchanted" (June 2-27, Enchanted Kingdom, Laguna), nude sketching session at Ad Infinitum Art Gallery (July 16, San Juan), on-the-spot sketching at Shangri-La Plaza (Aug. 23, Mandaluyong City), exhibition titled "AAP at the Shang" at Metropolitan Art Gallery (Sept. 23, Shangri-La Plaza), the "Artists and Models Masked Benefit Ball" at Siete Pecados Bar and Disco, with Fashion Designers Association of the Phils., simultaneous with the opening of the exhibition titled "Neestopia" (Oct. 27, Westin Philippine Plaza), the 53rd AAP Annual Art Competition Awarding and Exhibition (Nov. 10, GSIS Museum), the AAP Christmas party (Dec. 16, GSIS Museum); the AAP lecture and workshop tour to Pangasinan State University with the Pangasinan Art Group (Jan. 12-13, Lingayen, Pangasinan), the AAP sketching tour of Pulilan (March 3) and subsequent exhibition of on-the-spot artworks at Café Pulilan (March 24, Pulilan, Bulacan) and the AAP lecture tour and workshop on installation art in Magalang, Pampanga with the Pampanga Arts Guild (April 1). These activities, which includes the Annual, were done to foster camaraderie among artists both young and old, but especially to help younger and more active members who still have to make it in the art world. We will continue these regular reach-out activities, to which everyone is invited, until the end of our term.

The AAP has always gathered members through the above-mentioned activi-

AAP'S/ p.D5

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7 - 11	Young Culinary Expert (13-18 yrs old)	9 am - 12 nn
7 - 11	Junior Chef's Program (9-12 yrs old)	9 am - 12 nn
12	Easy Japanese Cooking with Kikkoman	1 - 5 pm
12	A Taste of Italy	9 am - 2 pm
12	Baking for Kids (7-12 yrs old)	9 am - 12 nn
14 - 18	Young Culinary Masters (13-18 yrs old)	9 am - 12 nn
14 - 18	Advanced Junior Chef's Program (9-12yrs old)	9 am - 12 nn
21 -24	Advanced Cake Decorating	10 am - 3 pm
23 - 26	Restaurant Management	1 - 7 pm
26	Easy Japanese Cooking with Kikkoman	1- 5 pm
26	Outdoor Cooking	9 am - 2 pm
26	Mexican Cuisine	9 am - 2 pm
26	Pastry Ideas for Business	10 am - 3 pm

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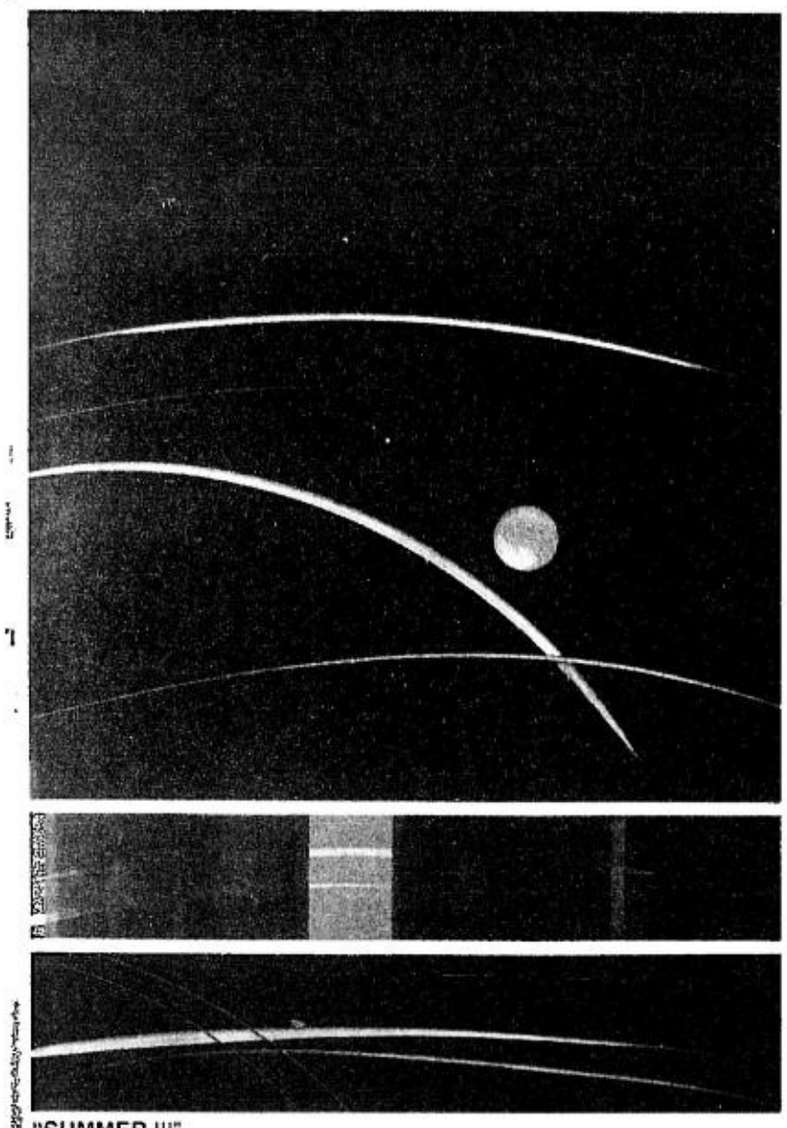

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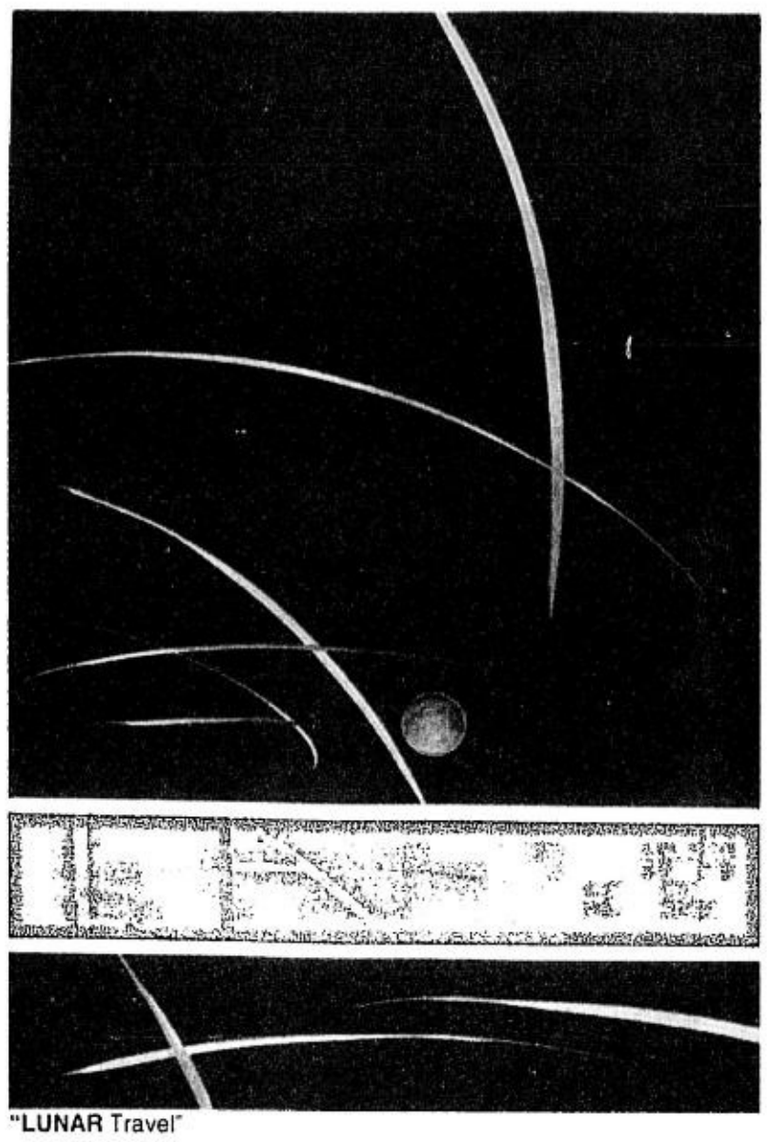
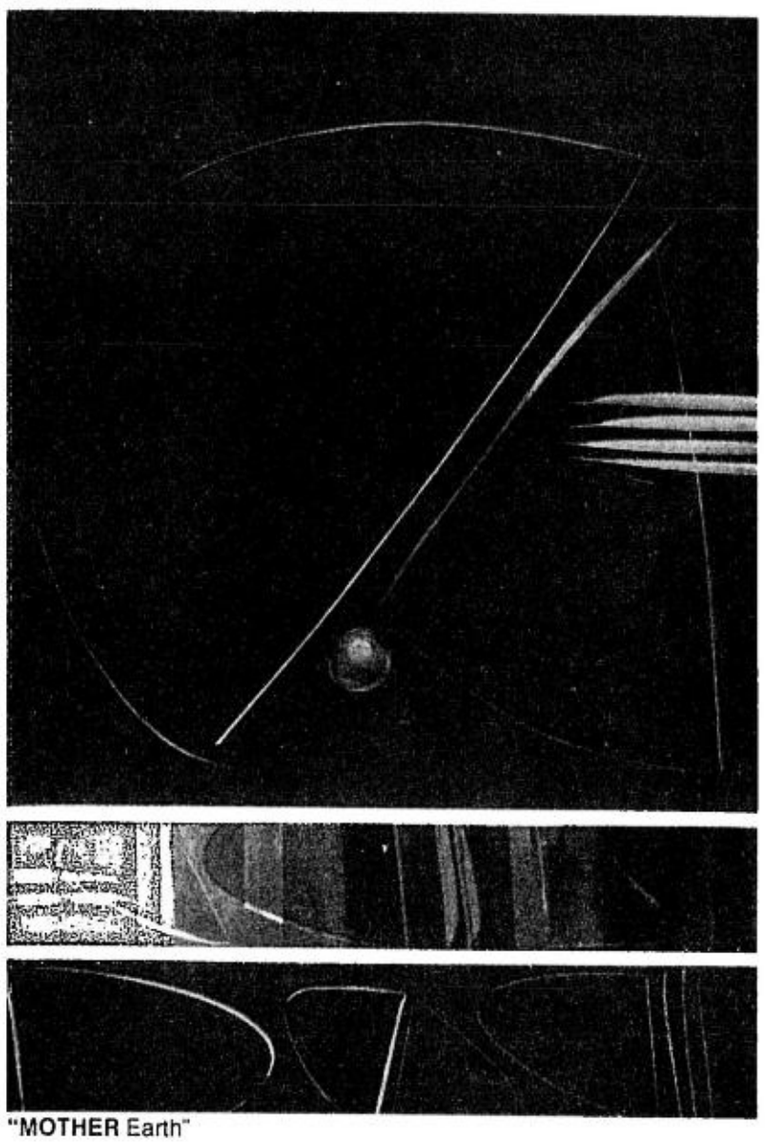


"LUNAR Travel"



"MOTHER Earth"

Artist captures images of planet in peril

"That the naturalist's journey has only begun and for all intents and purposes will go on forever. That it is possible to spend a lifetime in a magellanic voyage around the trunk of a single tree. That as the exploration is pressed, it will engage more of the things close to the human heart and spirit... Humanity is exalted not because we are so far above other living creatures, but because knowing them elevates the very concept of life."

—Edward O. Wilson (from "Biophilia," 1984)

BY GINO DORMIENDO

IT is no simple accident but rather a case of coincidence that Raul Gomez Isidro has decided to take up the daunting task of confronting the subject of our planet's condition at the dawning of the third millennium. As a profoundly chastened citizen of the world, with 58 years lived to the fullest, the artist has plumbed the depths of memory and scanned the heavens in search of his proverbial muse. This worthy son of Mother Earth has continually dramatized the milestones and evolutions in its existence, highlighting the problems facing humanity's habitat.

This prolific artist from Calbayog, Samar burst into the art scene following the historic Apollo 8 mission to the moon in December 1968, an event he celebrated with an exhibit of abstract paintings dubbed "Lunar Orbit" at the old La Solidaridad. (The eponymous work later won first honorable mention at the Art Association of the Philippines' annual competition.) Fascinated by the then emerging abstract expressionist mode of painting, Isidro fervidly worked on a variety of colors and forms, from the vertical and squarish to the circular-oval shapes, that, in a way, aptly mirrored the prevailing spirit of exploration and experimentation.

Between 1970-1976, Isidro did a series of circular-oval paintings called the "Mangyan series," predominantly done in earth colors, employing calligraphic symbols then beginning to surface. This was promptly followed by the "Festival series," where he altered his color scheme from browns, blues and olive greens to yellows and oranges. Then came his "Landscape series," which revealed a hitherto unknown facet of Isidro's palette.

Early in his career, Isidro dabbled in sculpture with stone as medium, winning a string of awards such as second prize honors in the First National Sculpture competition and first honorable mention in the Fourth National Festival of Arts for Sculpture. It was, however, in printmaking that Isidro would gain prominence, clinching the grand prize in the Printmakers Association of the Philippines' Annual Art Competition in 1972.

For 10 long years—from 1985-1995—Isidro lived abroad, a painful decision prompted by the expediency of survival and in response to his family's clamor to explore greener pastures. He eventually found employment as art director to several advertising houses in San Jose and San Francisco, California. But he did not forsake his art career and, while abroad, became the only Asian board member of the Hayward Arts Council in California. During this period, he exhibited in various venues of San Francisco, even finding time to help raise funds for the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

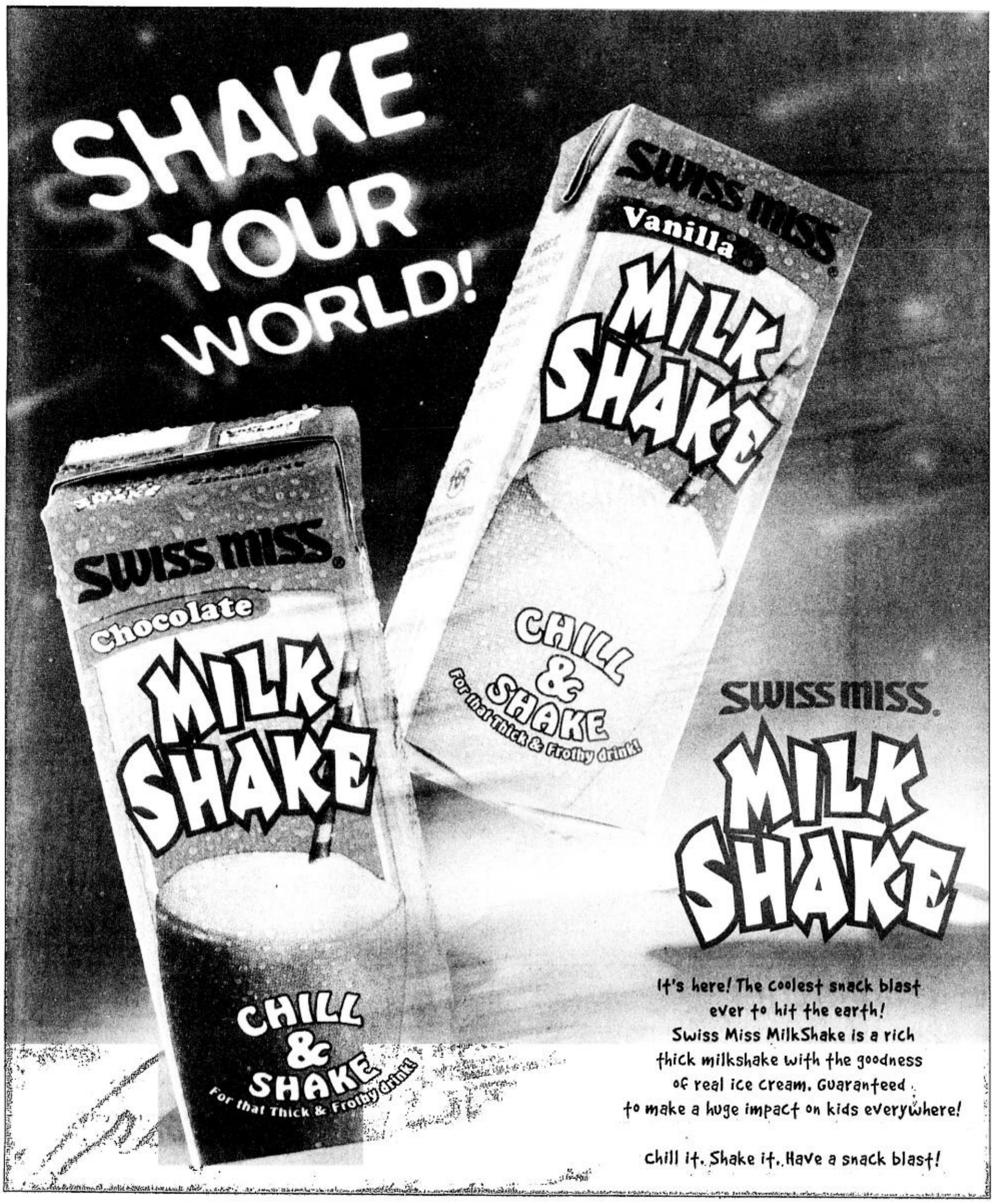
In 1995, when he and his family finally came home for good, he frenziedly made up for lost time, exhibiting in three galleries that year and the following year. In 1998, he mounted a retrospective at the Art Center in SM Megamall, which covered the last 30 years of his artistic life. He mounted three other shows in the last two years, a no mean feat considering the demands of having to resettle all over again.

In his 42nd solo show, Isidro has finally gone back to his first love—printmaking. As the incumbent president of the Printmakers Association of the Philippines, he has helped promote printmaking in the country, which has considerably lagged behind painting and sculpture.

In his latest exhibit at the Galeria Duemila (which ends today), Isidro shows he has come full circle as an artist with an abiding concern for the state of our planet. Having tirelessly worked in the various facets of printmaking these past two years, Isidro has opted to concentrate on monoprint, which, as its name implies, is a one-off impression made by applying printing ink to a flat surface and transferring it later to paper. Monoprint does not use presses or special studio equipment, but such essential tools as brush, paper, glass mixing slab, block-printing ink, palette knife and roller. Isidro brings to the job his painterly skills essential to obtaining several impressions from one inking, with varying degrees of thickness of the ink and the pressure applied to the back of the paper.

The series of monoprints on view at the Galeria Duemila offers us a brave new look at planet Earth, as captured by Isidro's highly personal perspectives of its changing seasons and climatic movements. He has infused the images with a heightened sense of awareness vital to

ARTIST/ p.D4



Pacquing at West Gallery; Subang at ABC Galleries; Rojas at Glorietta and Alabang

VISUAL ARTS

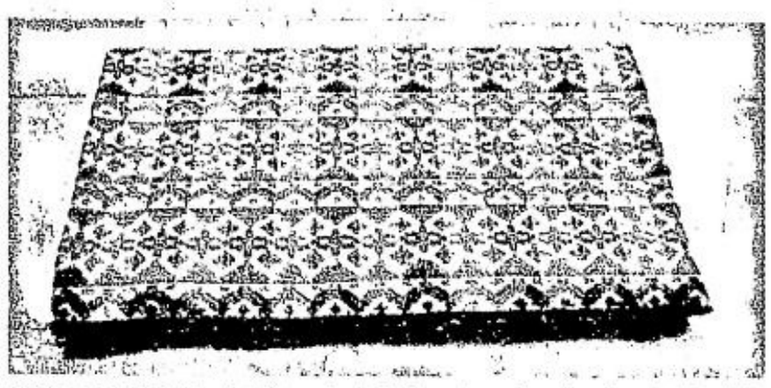
BERNARDO Pacquing mounts his latest exhibit dubbed "Brief Unbecoming Mass," which features a new set of large-scale works at the SM Art Center, Artwalk, 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit will run May 4-16. Pacquing notes that his painting and sculpture speak a similar language: the objects are not actually solid—they can move freely from one perspective to another. As he does in cutting off some painted layers of canvas and pasting them elsewhere in the painting, Pacquing also used as much creative control in his found-object sculptures. Call 634-1284.

SUBANG AT ABC GALLERIES. Gamaliel Subang presents his recent works in oil at the new ABC Galleries, 2/F 1911 M. Adriatico St. Malate, Manila. Dubbed "Nature," the show features landscapes, seascapes and scenes celebrating the colors and distinct qualities of light of a tropical summer. One thing present in every Subang painting is the warmth of the sun and the radiation of heat when light hits the earth. His personal theory of light radiation and reflection serves as a guidepost when he paints. Call 524-3795

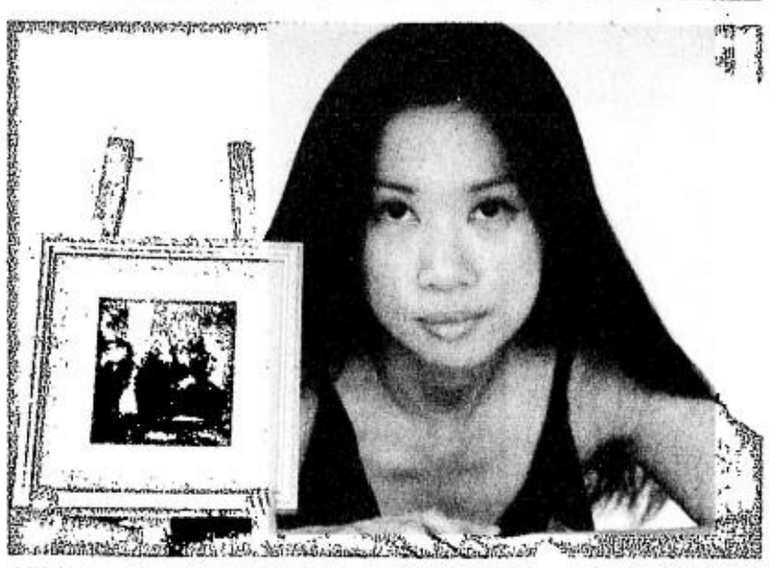
ROJAS EXHIBIT. Artist Stella Rojas simultaneously holds two shows at Store Co. Inc. in Glorietta and Alabang. Dubbed "Petite Nature," Rojas explores the humble and intimate realm of miniatures focusing on her signature Pariscapes and French "paysages" to stress once again the need for sacred reverence for nature.

LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS AT AYALA MUSEUM. Ayala Museum presents an exhibit by artists and art students featuring still life and landscape paintings in oil until May 4. Participating artists include Kerima Adam, Mardy Aguilar, Elsa Bouffard,

PACQUING/ p.D6



"THE DREAM Blankets," an installation piece by visual artist Freddie Aquilizan, opens on May 2, 6 p.m. at the 3/F Hallway of the CCP. A project based on the CCP textile collection and exhibition "SPINcycle," "The Dream Blankets" gathers household blankets and dream stories from inside and outside Metro Manila. The exhibit runs until May 31. Call 832-5094.



ARTIST Stella Rojas with her miniature oil painting

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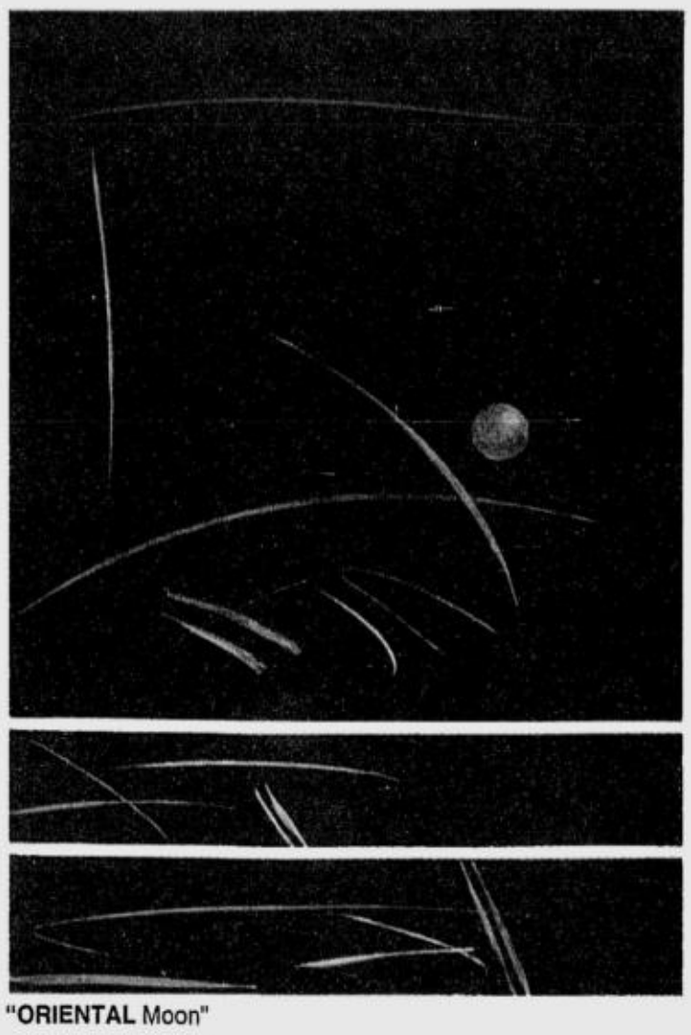
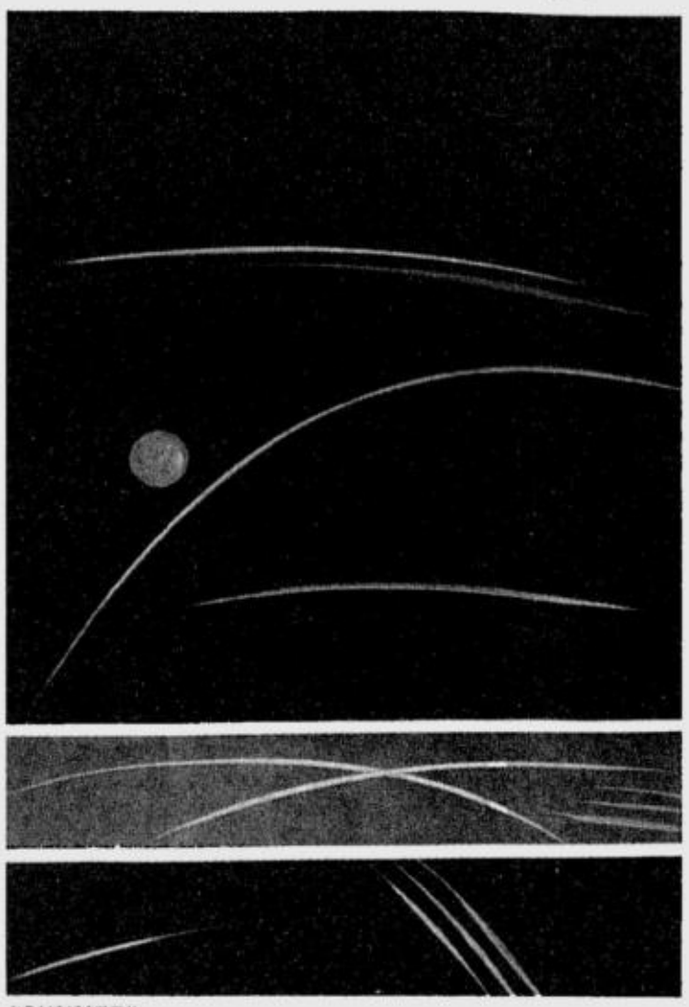
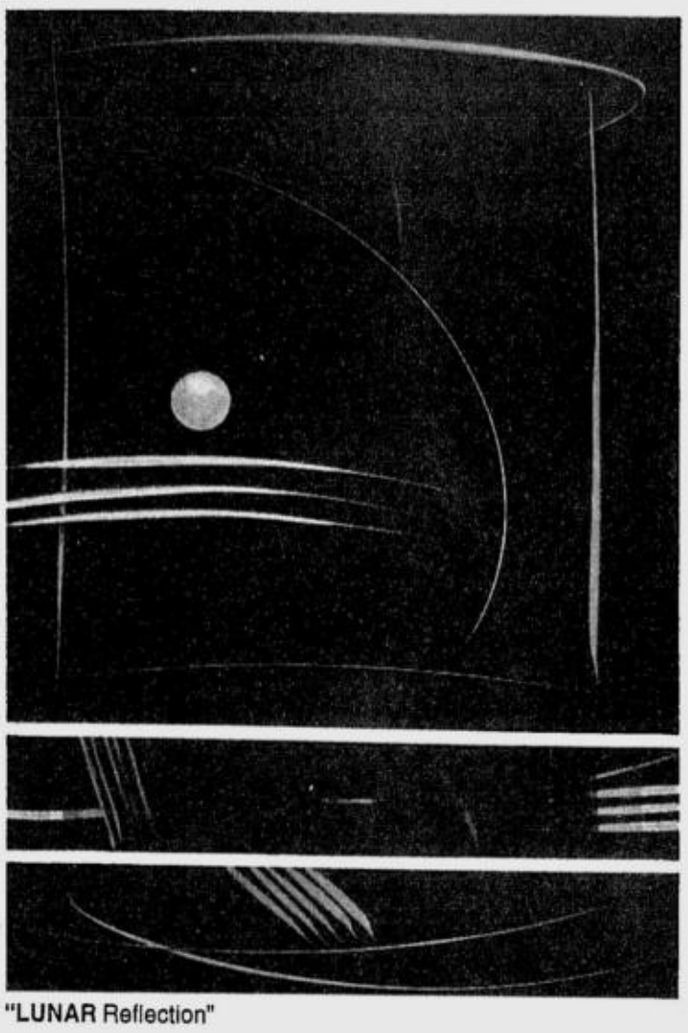
Isidro gives us an update on the perilous course our planet has taken



"ORIENTAL Moon"



"SUMMER"



"LUNAR Reflection"

Artist captures images of planet in peril

(From page D2)

the planet's survival.

The titles of the pieces conjure up the moods and modes of transition, as in "Midnight Express," which approximates the streak of light that flashes in the heavens and resembles the quicksilver image of shooting stars amid a starry night.

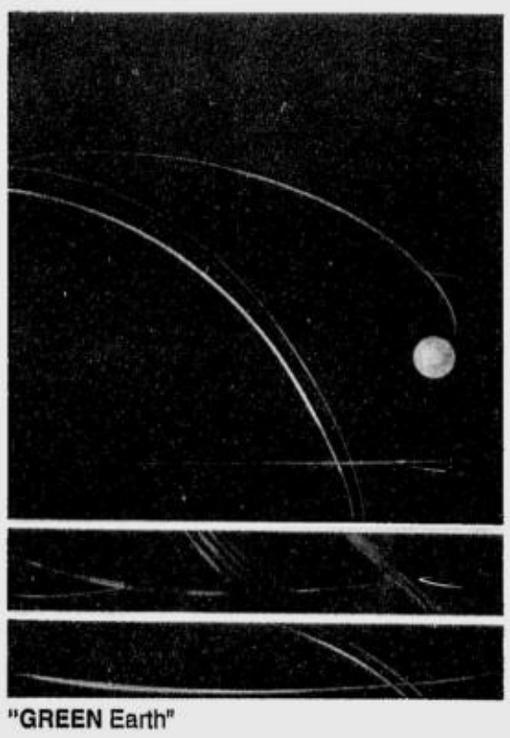
The "Mother Earth" pieces have been executed predominantly in black, with luminous swaths of light dissecting the surface in an attempt to capture various mental and emotional states. Planet Earth, on the other hand, is conjured in graduating hues, from green to yellow and orange, depending on the seasons depicted, not to mention the changes in weather patterns and in our ecosystem as a result of global warming. The impressions gradually become fainter, coarser and, needless to say, more evanescent with every fleeting moment.

The colors, so unlike those produced by relief printing, intaglio and screen printing, are handpainted, which, given Isidro's rich palette sense, further imbues his works with a subdued air of elegance. This is apparently the artist's alternative to the more rigorous demands of painting, though monoprints are not necessarily less expensive to produce than the regular prints. Moreover, the application of colors is very much unlike that on canvas, since the offset process requires a careful transition from plate to roller before the image is ultimately transferred.

Isidro employs his trademark calligraphic gestures to create movement, tension and contrast between order and chaos, reason and intuition, altogether creating the impression that unpredictability or irrationality exists in a streamlined structure. The otherwise hard-edged, minimalist effect is offset by the middle planar section, which is imbued with brighter, bolder hues as in the signature piece "Mother Earth."

In a good number of the monoprints, we get glimpses of the critical condition of Earth's ecosystems—the widespread degradation of agricultural lands, the depletion of ground water almost everywhere, the oceanic dead zones caused by pollutants, the ecological disaster that now threatens the entire planet. In "The Red Moon of El Nino," for instance, Isidro captures the planet's fiery-red color as a result of the long drought. Alternating from black to red, Isidro is giving us an update on the perilous course the planet has taken as we continue to ignore the threat of global warming, perhaps the most serious danger to the future of our planet and all living things. The exhibit is Isidro's personal response to the rallying call to help save the Earth. As we are about to be swept away in a frenzied election campaign this season, in which candidates rant and rave about issues of good governance, the greater issue involving our habitat is bound to be sidetracked.

By taking this long, arduous look at Mother Earth, we shall at the end have become aware of the imperative to have a healthy planet, the quintessential artistic masterpiece.



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AAP's role in Philippine society

(From page D1)

ties, though it does not come as a surprise that most of them join during the competition. The Annual does not attempt to compete with other art competitions because our purpose is to develop fellow Filipino artists, especially those who still have no audience. The AAP has always benefited artists through the Annual when they were young (Botong Francisco won when he was 35, Legaspi when he was 32, Sanso when he was only 21; Malang first won when he was 25), for it provided an objective, nonpartisan platform for them to express themselves as legitimate co-members of a community.

Art legislation

About art legislation, the AAP has often led the way in coordinating with government and the private sector on the formulation of policies on the arts. It should not be forgotten that AAP had provided expertise to the drafting of art competition rules of, among others, the PLDT-GTE Directory Cover Contest, the Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards and the Nokia Art Awards. The AAP has also been involved in the legislation of a bill on art authentication as far back as 1997. Just this week, we coordinated with the Office of the President through assistant executive secretary Antonio F. Corrado concerning suggestions on the consolidated House and Senate Bills (now about to be signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo) that would finally criminalize art forgery, and provide the proper mechanism for a fool-proof art authentication system. We have also been involved in multisectoral consultations on the advancement of good government, such as our participation at the drafting of a manifesto for good governance presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo, and called by the Edsa People Power Commission at La Salle Greenhills on Feb. 25.

The concern about art taxes has been raised long before. I personally talked with then Minority Floor Leader Rep. Sonny Alvarez last September about the need to remove art materials from the list of taxed luxury items because its high cost was detrimental to the development of art education among the masses, and to struggling artists. His reaction was quite positive, and we are waiting the convening of the next Congress this July in order to push this agenda. We are also consolidating our coordination with the two other major national art associations, the Society of Philippine Sculptors and the Philippine Association of Printmakers in order to forward the cause of the visual artists on a truly multisectoral manner.

As for the charge that AAP president got foreign grants, that is simply not true. The foreign trips of former president Ramon G. Orlina and myself were either through our own pockets, or were sponsored by corporations that had invited us abroad in our official capacities as AAP presidents. We have not availed of any foreign scholarship or art grant that would have otherwise gone to an AAP member.

Finally, about fighting over money, we would like to clarify once and for all that the AAP's concern for finances is to benefit its entire membership. Perhaps referring to the recent events concerning the AAP book project, we would like to assure everybody that the AAP will not interfere in anyway with the manner that the funds generated for the project will be spent by the AAP Foundation. Our only concern was to see the book project come into fruition, unlike that other group referred to, whose members are apparently squabbling as to how to divide the money among themselves.

We thank Malang for his concern about the AAP's role in our society, and we hope to change his mind about its "uselessness" since Purita Kalaw-Ledesma and 12 other cofounders formed it in 1948. We will always respect the opinions of senior people in the AAP like Malang, and hope they will always support our selfless initiatives to develop and fight for the rights of all Filipino visual artists.

(Sgd.) REUBEN RAMAS CAÑETE
President, AAP

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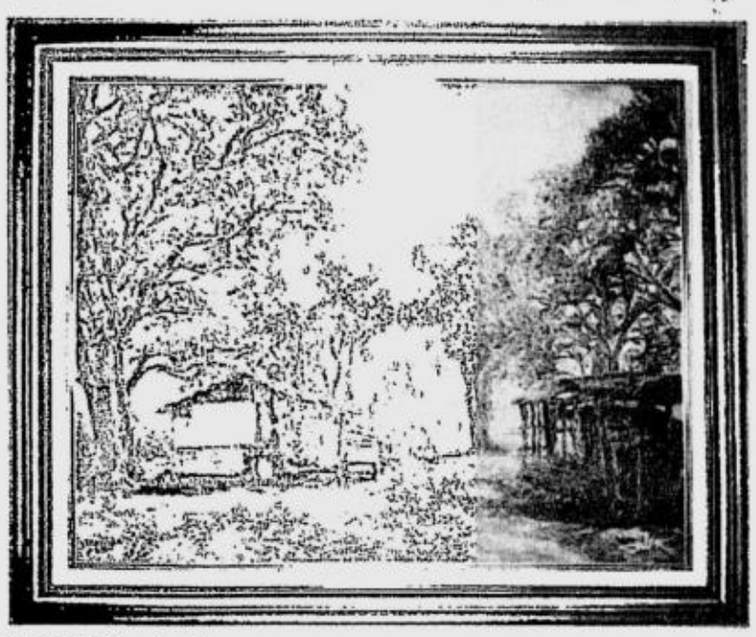
"WATERMELON Vendor" by Greg Bolanos, on view at the GSIS Museum. Call 551-1301.

THE CALBAYOG Art Association Inc. is holding a group exhibit titled "Tugahan Nga Ladawan," featuring landscapes and seascapes of Calbayog City and Samar, at Armando's Art Gallery, Magsaysay Boulevard corner Pajarito Street. The exhibit runs until May 31. Shown above are (from left) Danny Celum, Noel Sagayap, Jun Sabili, Manding Toleza and Aris Ventures.



"SUNLIT Haystack" by Gamaliel I. Subang, oil on canvas (1994)

Pacquing at West Gallery . . .

(From page D3)

Aurora Caparas, Clay Dalid, Angela Faustino, Erlinda Gamboa, Lorenzo Lesaca, Teresita Mapua, Micaela Lourdes Reyes and Catherine Molly Yap. Call 812-1181 to -97 local 106.

CUYSON AT WEST GALLERY. Jon Cuyson mounts his sixth solo exhibit of new works—nine acrylic paintings on canvas on plywood panels having minimal colors with abstracted geometric forms, hung individually. The artist creates abstract works that may appear simple, yet are highly considered and complex. Cuyson's approach is objectively ordered, yet subjectively introspective, pensive, but with a perceptual wit. A reductive purity of line, form and color serves to combine Cuyson's intuitive and intellectual processes to create something that speaks of more than the language of painting. On view at West Gallery, 3/I Glorietta 4, Makati City on May 3-15.

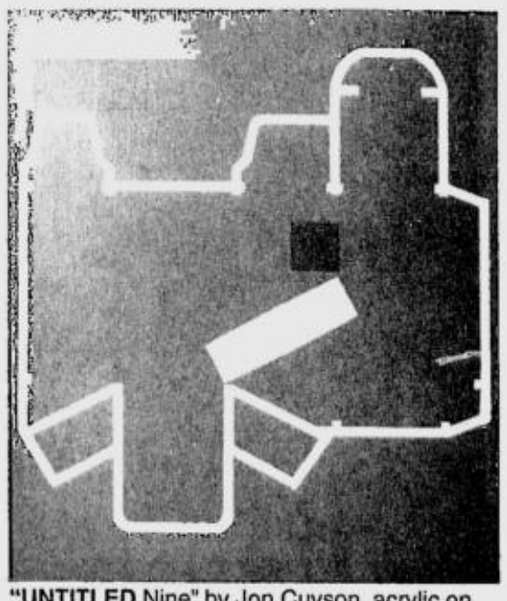
LECTURE. The Ayala Museum will hold a series of lectures at the Amorsolo Room of the Ayala Museum to complement their special exhibit titled "Art of the Cross: A Philippine Tradition." The lectures will be held every Saturday, 3-5 p.m., until May 12. Call 812-1191 to -97 local 106.

'PLAY ART FOR TODDLERS.' The continuing education program of the Ayala Museum introduces a new program for toddlers in a playgroup setup. Dubbed "Play Art for Toddlers," the program runs until May 17. The program is designed for kids from ages 1 year and 8 months up to 3 years old. The play group aims to expose children to art at a very young age by promoting exploration and experimentation of tactile, visual and auditory sensations. Activities like storytelling, finger painting and string art will also be conducted. Call 812-1191 to -97 local 130.

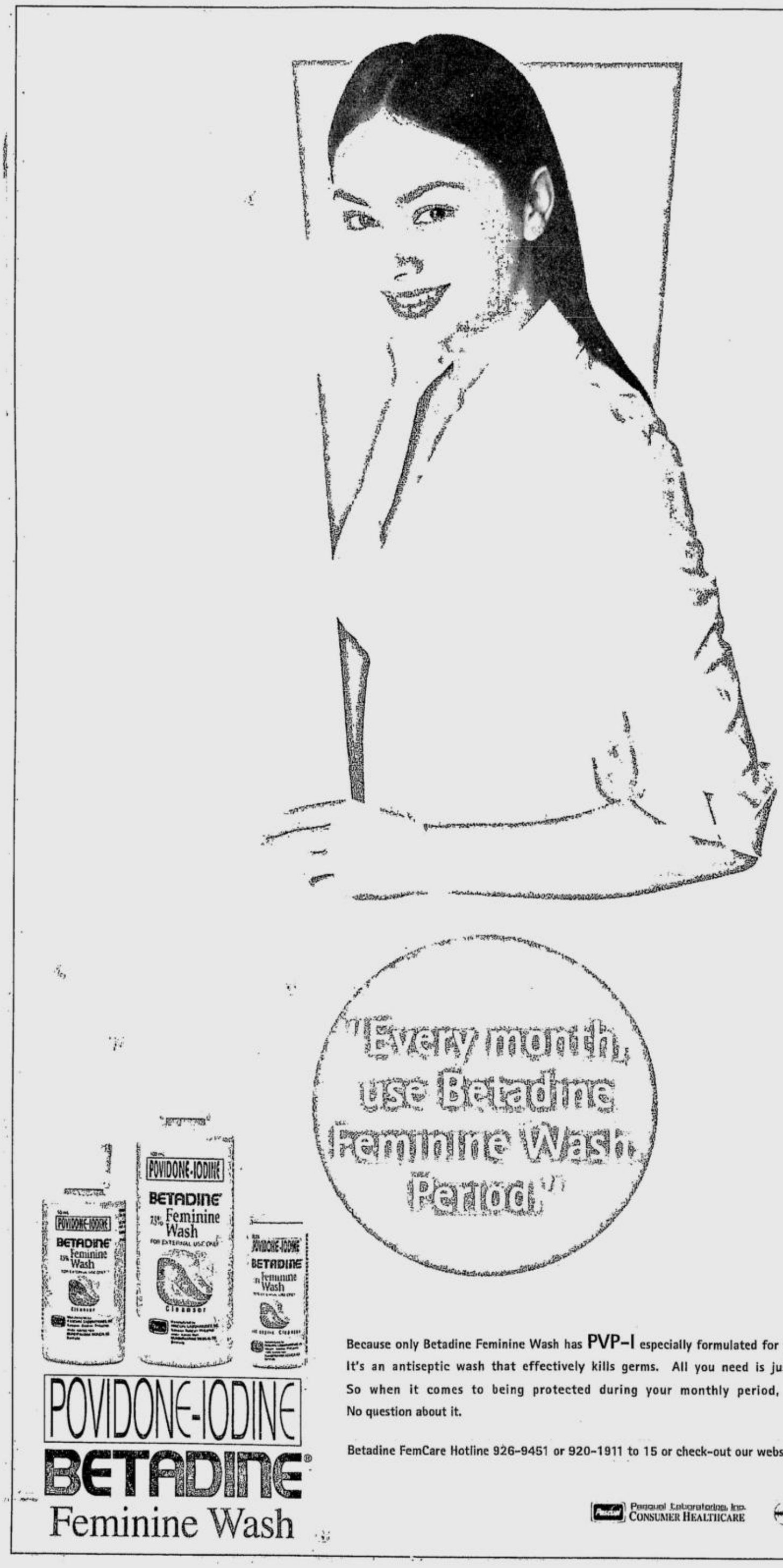
WRITING WORKSHOP. Filipinas Heritage Library will host a four-weekend workshop on Writing for Glossies on May 5, 12, 19 and 26, at the Filipinas Heritage Library Reading Room, Makati. Good Housekeeping editor in chief Apol Lejano will serve as workshop facilitator. Call 892-1801.

PHOTO WORKSHOP. The Alcove Photo Gallery and EyeAsia Philippines aim to create a venue for dialogues and new learning on the subject of photography through the annual Manila Photo Workshop. The workshop will run May 8-11 at the Reading Room, Filipinas Heritage Library. It will focus on the fundamentals of photography with field assignment and critiquing/photo clinic. Call 892-1801.

"ORDER That Makes Gray" by Bernardo Pacquing, oil, housepaint, crayon, pencil on canvas (2001)



"UNTITLED Nine" by Jon Cuyson, acrylic on canvas (2000)



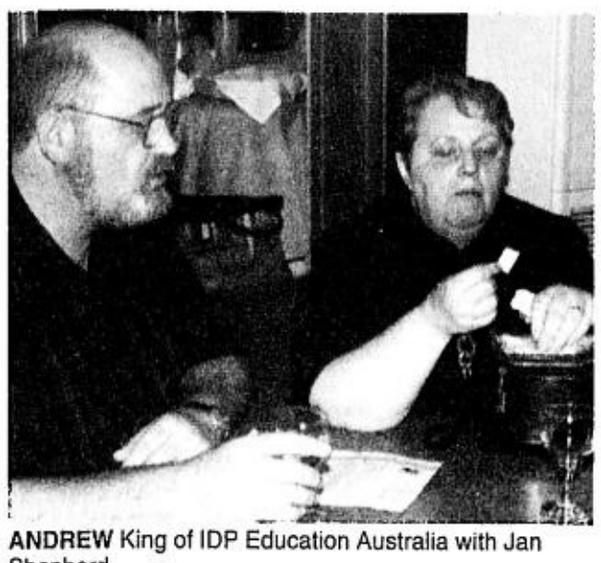
No borders Aussie experience

(From page D8)

grand draw on April 30, 2002. From May 31, 2001 to March 31, 2002, lucky guests get to win monthly "G'Days": two bottles of Australian wine as first prize; two complimentary Australian No Borders Menu Specials as second prize; and two Australian gift packs as third prize. Upon filling out the raffle coupons, make sure it is dropped into the boxes put up specially for this purpose at Chateau Ortigas and Malate.

Deadline for submission of raffle coupons is at closing hours of every 28th of the month. All non-winning coupons in the monthly draws would still be eligible to win the grand prize, which will be raffled off on April 30, 2002. The grand prize-winner will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Australia, including accommodations for three days and two nights and a special visit to the Winery of Mildara Blas.

LUCILA Prieto of the Mexican embassy and Cecilia Leung



ANDREW King of IDP Education Australia with Jan Shepherd

TRADE TALK. Australian trade commissioner Graham Poon (right) with wife Carolyn and Harold Wolf

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SMILE, MATES. From left, Brendan Davies of PhilGro; Honeybee Hubahib, Qantas country manager; Ricky Gutierrez, one of Cheateau 1771 owners; Justin Philips, Linden Suites GM; and Jeremy Kruste, Australian embassy first secretary

WINE TASTERS. Cathy Campbell, Tina Templeton of AustralAsia and Mark and Kyle Belle

CHEF Vicky Pacheco and Alan and Evi Cosio

No borders Aussie experience

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

IN CELEBRATION of Australia's centenary of federation, a special promo called "Australia, Chateau and You" has been launched at Chateau 1771 (Ortigas and Malate) in collaboration with the Australian Embassy, the Australian Trade Commission and the Australian Wine & Food Co.

The program gives lucky guests the chance to go on a Down Under holiday and win Australian wines and gift packs, among other prizes.

There are so many ways to win. Order a glass of Australian wine at any Chateau and you get one raffle stub. Chateau's lady chef Vicky Rose Pacheco and Portico's sous chef Dennis Edillon have prepared an Australian No Borders Menu Special, and those who order from the special Oz menu get three raffle coupons.

If you're on a shout (that's Australian for "buying a round of drinks") and you want to buy wine by the bottle, the Chateau automatically awards five raffle tickets for every bottle bought. The more bottles, the more chances of bagging the trip.

There will be 11 monthly draws before the

NO BORDERS/ p.D7

KYLE Bell, trade commissioner, Australian embassy, and Tony Melvile, department head of mission, who represented Australian Ambassador John Buckley at the event

HONEYBEE Hubahib and Jeremy Stone of GHD Philippines

RAUL Hernandez, former BOI managing head, with Chris Ward of Anzcham

CAROLYN Poon and Patricia Ludwyk of Ausaid

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6. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Raffle participants can only win once per draw. Should a name be drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of higher value.
7. Prizes must be redeemed within 60 days from notification and will be valid until Dec. 15, 2001 excluding the week of Oct. 30 - Nov 5. GMA winners can redeem their prizes at the Shakey's Head Office. Provincial winners may claim their prize from a Shakey's representative at the outlet where the winning entry was dropped.
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LIFESTYLE

'MOTHER TONGUE' AND 'RUN FOR YOUR WIFE'

Confused identities

Story on page E2

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'MOTHER TONGUE' AND 'RUN FOR YOUR WIFE'

Confused identities

BY CORA LLAMAS

WHAT'S a Chink doing teaching English in a Kansas university?"

The sarcastic barb that Filipino-Chinese immigrant David Lee (Bart Guingona) pokes at his predominantly American students is actually the unspoken but nagging question that he has been asking himself. Discovering the answer becomes an enjoyable theatrical immersion in crossing racial and cultural boundaries.

"Mother Tongue," the autobiographical play written by Filipino-Chinese-naturalized-American Paul Stephen Lim and recently performed by Actors' Actors Inc. (AAI), is aptly titled. Language is not merely a string of words that one speaks, write, and thinks in; it's a mirror of his values, motivations and the entire ethnic community he is bonded to. Yet, on the other hand, culture and family, too, are whole languages in themselves, an unspoken but nevertheless very strong, if not indomitable means of communication by which people relate to and connect with each other.

REVIEWS

Mix two totally different languages and you might end up getting or becoming *halo-halo*. A product, denizen and, ultimately, a stranger to both worlds. The adjustment—and transition—can be painful and traumatic. Take the lead character for example. Lee, the son of ethnic Chinese and educated by the Jesuits in Manila, was raised to fulfill the traditional expectations of business, marriage, and children. Instead, he emigrates to the US to become a writer of English prose, and he's gay. Taught to speak Fookien at home, he falls in love with a language that his people condescendingly use only to expand their empire.

The author uses stream-of-consciousness to welcome the audience into Lee's poignant, bittersweet, if occasionally ironic self-exploration. Each major scene dealing with a particular issue is marked by a classroom lesson. The following scenarios are then set in Lee's office, where he writes a play and entertains his visitors. Play and visitors though bring in the past. An innocent conversation about marriage could open the door into the struggling attempts of Lee's mother to make the Christian Bible relevant in her life.

Act One is basically about the steps that led to his choice of an American life. Act Two reveals his efforts to make a home and the vital emotional connection with that life. Director Chris Millado wisely fills up his cast with actors who either talk, look or are in fact American (Richard Cunanan as Lee's ex-lover, Ed Feist as his student, and Bobbie Greenwood as a colleague). The racial divide separating them from the obviously Asian characters is very clearly seen and felt (Guingona's Lee and his mother, played by Nieves Campa and Miren Alvarez in her mid-20s and 50s, respectively).

Ultimately, though, as these characters interact, "Mother Tongue" goes beyond Lee's personal story into the racial and cultural legacy he carries on his shoulders, a part of his life that just won't let go. And when Lee rants and raves to break against the shackles, we feel for him; Guingona's performance shines in these moments. There are times, though, that the intensity simply overshadows the supposed affection that Lee professes for his adopted country. The acid wit can make you wonder whether he even likes *being* in America.

It's a showdown between these two countries in Lee's heart. The Philippines is just a stopover, it doesn't even count. To the Chinese, the issue is simple: either he belongs to the race or "the rest of the world," there is no in-between. It sounds like a tough, cruel choice, and this play just hints about the kind of reclusion that the Chinese can go to distance itself from the non-Chinese.

Except that it's not all that cold. Chinese pride (for lack of a better word) finds a very human face in Lee's mother, Lillian, the ghost he cannot exorcise. Through Lee's memories, we see the young mail-order bride (Alvarez) grow into a nagging, but lovable, and staunchly Chinese mature mother (Campa). And through Lillian's life, played by the real-life mother-daughter acting tandem, we see the kind of love-hate relationship that can blossom and rupture between two very different countries.

No wonder Lee cannot find it in himself to tell his mother the truth and break her heart. The play ends unresolved, like the autobiographical play he is trying to write. But then again, the character—and, one suspects, the playwright—is just in the middle of his journey. Here's hoping that they find it. At the very least, it would make for a very rewarding sequel.

MIGUEL Faustmann is the bigamist who is about to be exposed in "Run for Your Wife." Liesl Batucan and Ana Abad Santos-Bitong play his two wives.

BART Guingona plays the lead in AAI's production of "Mother Tongue."

A SCENE from Repertory Philippines' "Run for Your Wife"

'Run for Your Wife'

The confused identities in Repertory Philippines' comedy "Run for Your Wife" spring from a more superficial reason: lying. Bigamist John Smith (Miguel Faustmann) is just about to be found out by the police and his two wives Barbara (Liesl Batucan) and Mary (Ana Abad Santos-Bitong). With the help of bumbling friend Stanley (Jeremy Domingo) and his very creative imagination, John fabricates outrageous situations 60 times a second.

The lies soon end up multiplying themselves Not very long after, everyone ends up confused as to who is whom. To Policeman No. 1, John and Stanley are closet lovers trying to keep their affair secret from Mary. To Policeman No. 2, Jeremy is a John-Smith namesake trying to give to John his troubled child, oddly named Stanley for adoption. To Barbara, Stanley is a nuisance farmer trying to sell John his animal feed. To Mary, Stanley is just plain nuisance. And when Mary and Barbara finally find themselves in the same room... No spoilers here, better watch the play. Any attempt to explain the plot won't make sense, until you do. The above scenario is just one permutation out of many. Sometimes, the scenarios that the characters come up with are just unbelievable. And occasionally, one can catch some of the actors obviously playing it for laughs. The play's time frame all happen within a day, and everyone seems to hurry it up to keep the audience for the ride. It's also a welcome change to see some actors cast against type (Faustmann departs from his genial father image, and Domingo from the urban snob).

Newcomer Roman Ripoll is a scene-stealer as the gay neighbor. But the real fun in the play comes in keeping track of the multifangled lies and what character believes what concoction And, yes, all of them will keep you hanging to the end, just to see if the lovable bigamist can get out of this one.

"The Lark," AAI's next play on St. Joan of Arc, will open in July. Call 536-5844. Repertory Philippines' "Run for Your Wife" is ongoing at the Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza until May 6.

CCP offers summer theater training

THE CCP 2001 Summer Theater Arts Workshop, the only theater-based training program taught by active theater professionals, is now accepting applications from beginning and advanced students for its second term May 7-27.

Its second term course offerings include Acting in Musical Theater (handled by Josephine Roces-Chavez and Christine Maranan, May 8-27, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.), the vocal and movement intensive course, trains budding musical theater performers in voice technique, dance and ensemble work in musical theater productions. Musical excerpts cap the workshop. Participants need not have experience to enroll.

Advanced Acting (taught by Tami Monsod, May 8-27, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 6-10 p.m.) teaches technique and methods in physicalizing and developing a role through monologues and group scene studies. An acting recital caps the workshop.

Production and Stage Management (taught by Ed Murillo, May 8-27, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 6-10 p.m.) introduces stage management and production systems for running professional theater productions, community theater and student theater settings.

Fundamentals of Play Directing Part II (taught by Chris Millado, May 8-20, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 6-10 p.m.) covers Rehearsal Technique, Scenework and Design Conceptualization as participants mount scenes with actors and collaborate with student designers. A showcase and concept presentation caps the workshop.

The CCP invites the public for special lectures on Arts Marketing on May 19, 2-5 p.m. and Philippine Theater History on May 12, 2-5 p.m., at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute Guided tours of the CCP Gallery and Backstage Theaters are also available on May 15 and 17 10 a.m.-12 nn.

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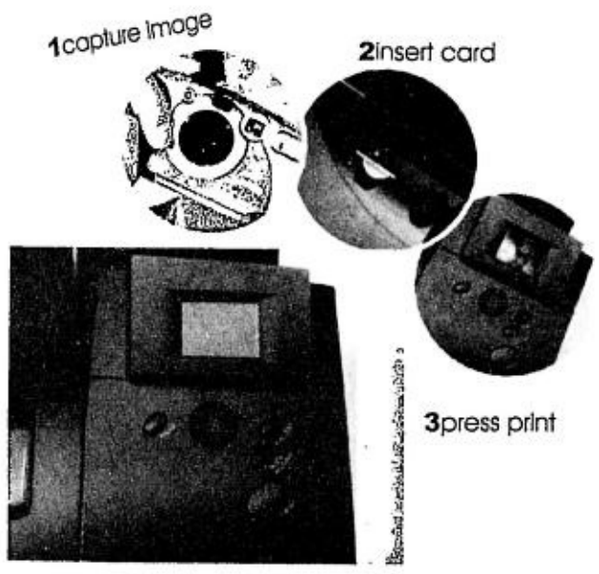

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Parent-child craft demo and storytelling at Page One

PARENTS and children can explore the art of pressed flowers together and enjoy a tale of nature discovery when Page One hosts children's book author and renowned pressed flower artist Penny Reyes-Velasco on May 5, 10 a.m., at the children's book section. The event is free and open to the public.

Founder of the Philippine Pressed Flower Society, Velasco will demonstrate how to make pressed flowers and show how children can turn these into works of art. She will also tell the story of her noted children's book, "Are You the Forest King?" The tale traces a young boy's search for the Forest King and how all beings are closely tied in the web of life.

Velasco has led several storytelling sessions of "Are You the Forest King?" to enthralled audiences all over the country. The book has also been translated to Tagalog by Fr. Rene Javellana, SJ.

Each sale of "Are You the Forest King?" goes to the sponsorship of a tree seedling in the country.

Page One is located at G/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati. The bookshop features an extensive collection of international titles.

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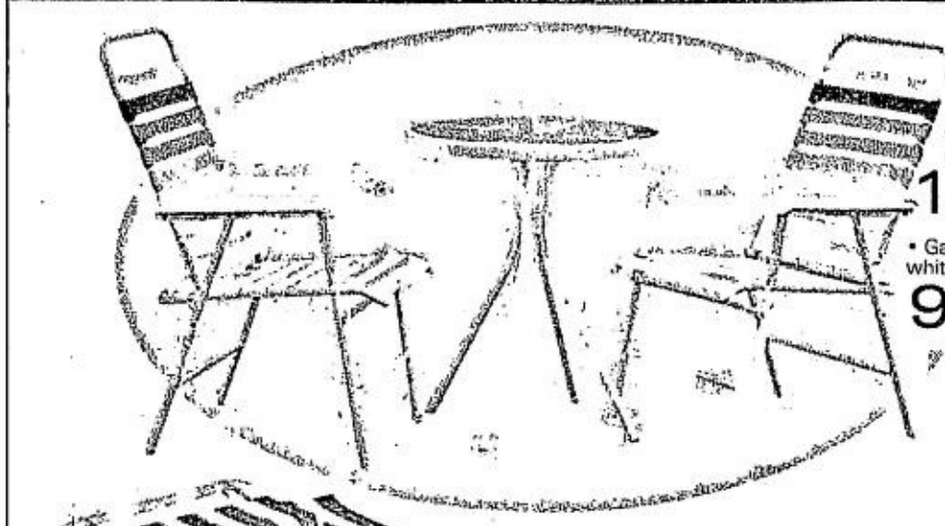

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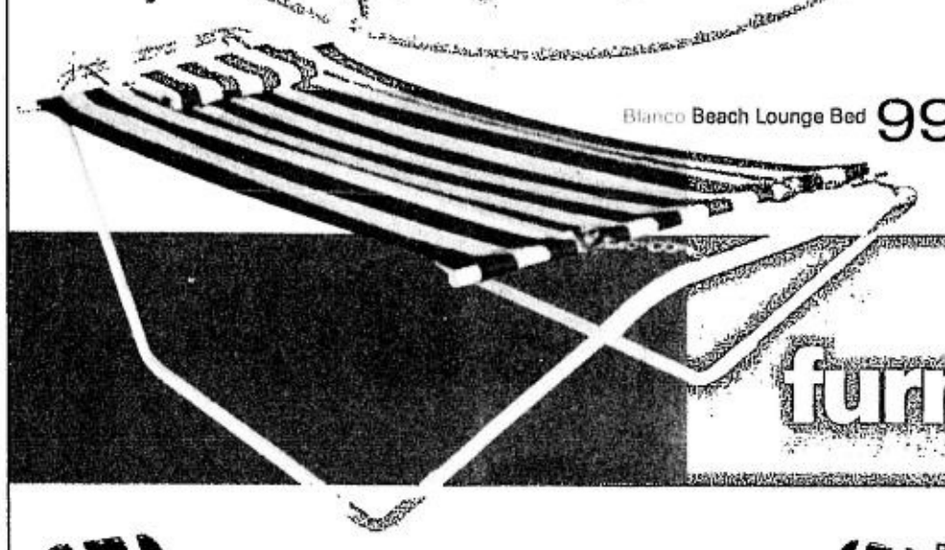

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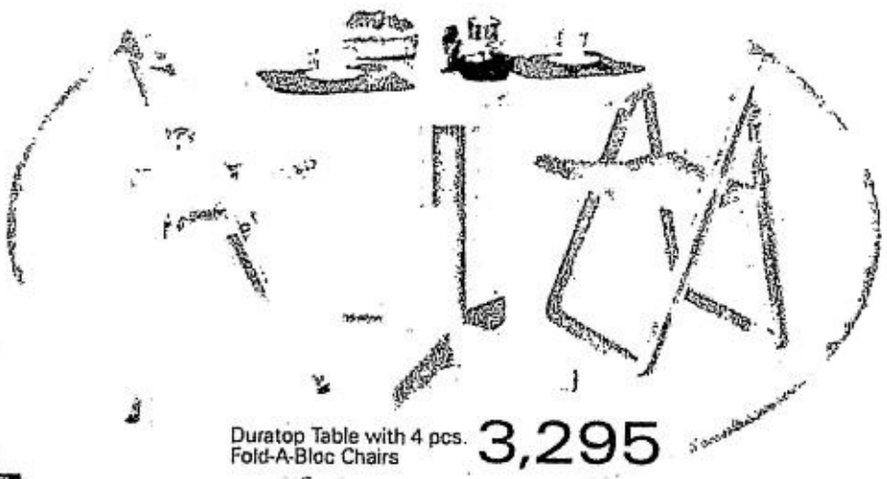

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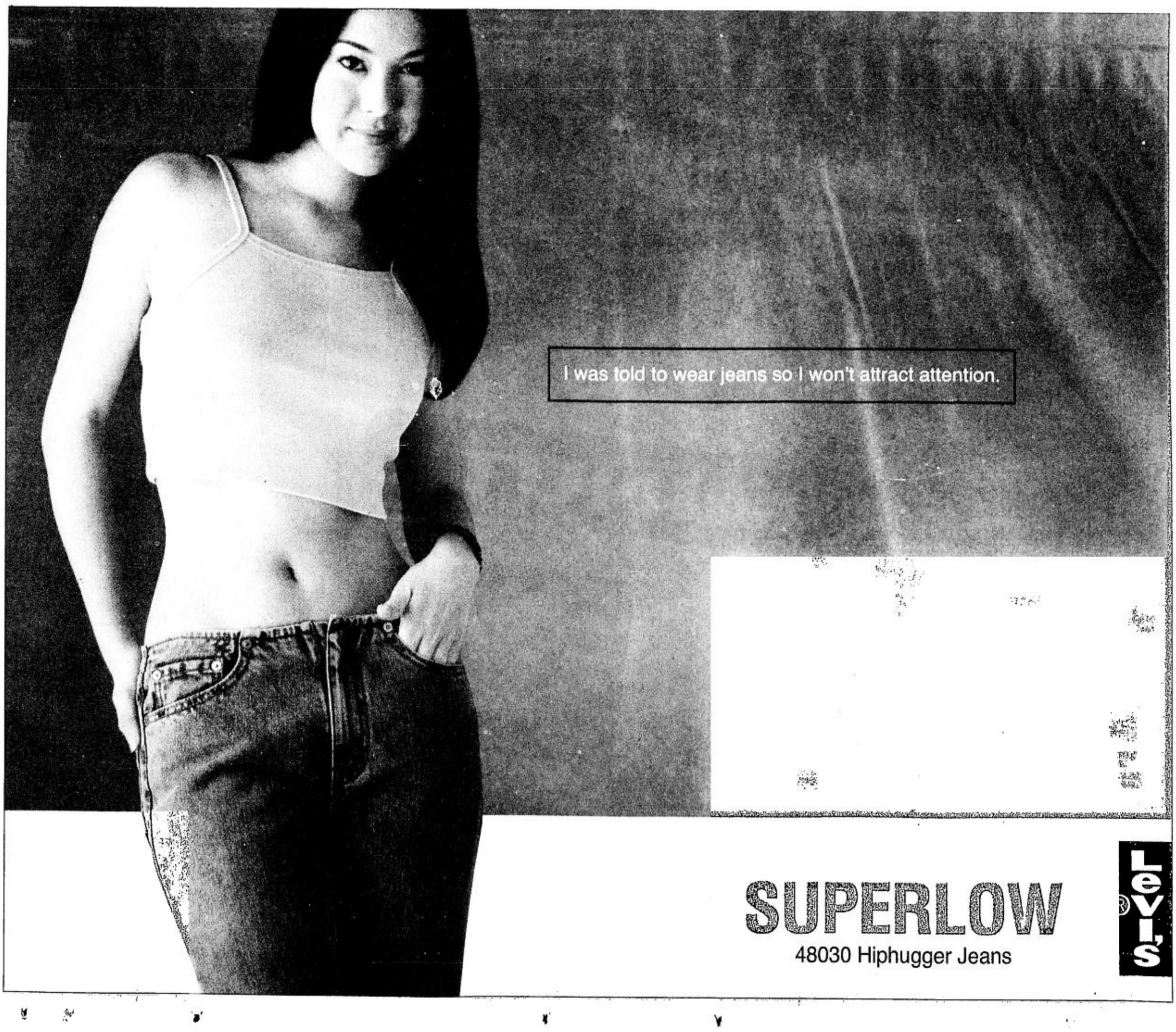

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The return of the salt of the earth

The remnants of Asin, makers of classic Pinoy folk-rock music, have reunited in a new album that has them singing with slain former member Saro Banares through the magic of technology

BY ED L. SANTOALLA

CRAIG Burrows has worshipped the sound since first hearing it in 1983. Songs about love and children in the midst of war, political strife and environmental destruction rendered in a mellifluous blend of voices and guitars had immediately caught the visiting young Englishman's fancy.

Eighteen years hence and Burrows, a little older and now head of a foundation that supports Filipino street children, is still around, a fixture in the local live entertainment circuit, rooting in particular for the sound of Asin, the three-men-and-a-lady band that brought Filipinos what could now be regarded as classic Pinoy folk-rock tunes: "Masdan ang Kapaligiran," "Balita," "Batingaw," among many others.

In a sense, Burrows is like many Filipinos of that generation that had come of age in those turbulent years of the '70s and '80s, among whom Asin—composed of Pendong Aban Jr., Lolita Carbon, Nonoy Pillora and the late Cesar "Saro" Banares—had struck a chord with their stirring social-realist messages of love, peace and understanding.

Walking testimony

In a larger sense, Burrows, who has developed a close friendship with Carbon and Aban, is a walking testimony to Asin's universal appeal, one that has made their music acceptable to almost everyone, whether Filipino or non-Filipino, young or old, progressive or reactionary, activist or apathetic. In other words, it is an appeal that has made Asin one of the most popular Pinoy folk-rock bands of all time.

(One music industry observer, in fact, has it that of the bands that came out of the Pinoy rock era of the '70s, Asin remains among the few that continue to receive royalty payments for their work.)

What makes for this universal, seemingly timeless, appeal of the Asin sound? This, despite potentially turnoff songs like "Magnanakaw," ("*May magnanakaw ng oras, talino at pawis/ pati ang galing kung minsa'y ninakaw din.*") that pointedly castigates Filipinos for their worst traits, e.g., corruption whether in government or the workplace.

PENDONG Aban Jr. and Lolita Carbon
PHOTO: MIKE ALQUINTO

"*May diplomasya*" is how Carbon describes Asin's songwriting, explaining this to be the secret of their success in combining poetry with sociopolitical commentary. "*Nagsasabi lang ng totoo*" is how Aban puts it.

Carbon or Nene, as the female lead, whose throaty vocals have given the Asin sound its most distinguished mark, and Aban, the long-haired synthesis of Mindanao's Visayan-Higaonon culture, are what is now left of the band that has come to define Pinoy acoustica.

The two other members are gone: Pillora, who has opted for a quieter life as a visual artist and family man, and Banares, writer of many of Asin's greatest hits including "Ang Bayan Kong Sinilangan sa Timog Cotabato," who had been dispatched to the Great Beyond by criminals in government men's clothing.

Reunion

For a while there, many had considered Asin "history" particularly as the band had already broken up in 1990. It was their second breakup (the first was in '83), which, then, seemed final as Pillora had already left. Aban and Carbon themselves would not see each other (except for a few hello-and-goodbye occasions at some Malate pub or another), busy as they were for the most part of the '90s building individual careers. (Aban has since formed his own Ang Grupong Pendong band while Carbon has made a few well-acclaimed productions—e.g., 1990's "Biyaheng Langit" and the award-winning "Paraisong Liko-Liko"—with her band Nene.)

Sometime in 1998, Aban chanced upon Carbon in a concert for press freedom organized by the group of INQUIRER columnist Conrad de Quiros (this was at the height of the defunct Erap administration's persecution and eventual takeover of the Manila Times); it was there that the two cooked up the idea of an Asin comeback.

The rest, as they say is, well, history, as Carbon and Aban have just finished cutting Asin's eighth album appropriately titled "Pagibig, Pagbabago, Pagpapatuloy." To be launched at the end of this month, this latest Asin outing has 11 cuts, including one overture, a medley of the best tunes from the band's previous seven albums.

The new album also features the back-up artistry of guitarists Lito Crisostomo and Noli Aurillo, drummer Rene "Chong" Tengasantos, Eraserheads bassist Buddy Zabala, and some of Manila's finest brass and string musicians. Together with Aurillo as arranger, the latter has come up with an instrumental Asin medley of a quality that approximates the London and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra respective earlier feats with Jethro Tull and Deep Purple.

Original members

But what of Asin's two other original members? According to Carbon and Aban, they have approached Pillora, even flying to Boracay where the latter holds fort as a visual artist, to convince him to rejoin. Pillora, however, has opted out, being unready as yet to leave the contented life of an artist shuttling to and from Boracay and his Israeli wife's homeland.

"We respect him for that," says Carbon and Aban of Pillora's decision. "Besides, we have his blessings for this project and more importantly, he has not closed his mind to a reunion in the future."

What of Banares? "We believe that wherever Saro is now, he is with us in this project," the surviving Asin duo say, pointing out to a number of occasions when the dead musician had made his presence felt.

The latest of these *pagpaparamdam* was at the height of negotiations with Vicor Records, (which is bank-rolling the Asin comeback album project) when a call comes in from Koronadal City (formerly Marbel, Saro's birth and death place), South Cotabato, inviting them to grace the observance of Saro's eighth death anniversary and celebration of his killer's conviction.

Aban and Carbon obliged, flying to and performing in Koronadal on March 18, the date of Saro's murder. "On the 19th, we went straight to the studio to make this album," they relate, saying they felt Saro was somehow steering things for them.

"*Kasama talagá namin si* Saro *dito*." So much so that the duo have dedicated the new album to their late colleague. This, by way of two cuts titled "Bawat Nilikha," a song that Carbon completed from initial scribblings by Banares that he had left with her, and "Sa Malayong Silangan," a Banares composition that he performed solo for a previous Ivory Records production titled "Saro sa Bato" and, which Aban and Carbon have overlaid with their own voices in a technique reminiscent of the surviving Beatles work on the late John Lennon's opus, "Free."

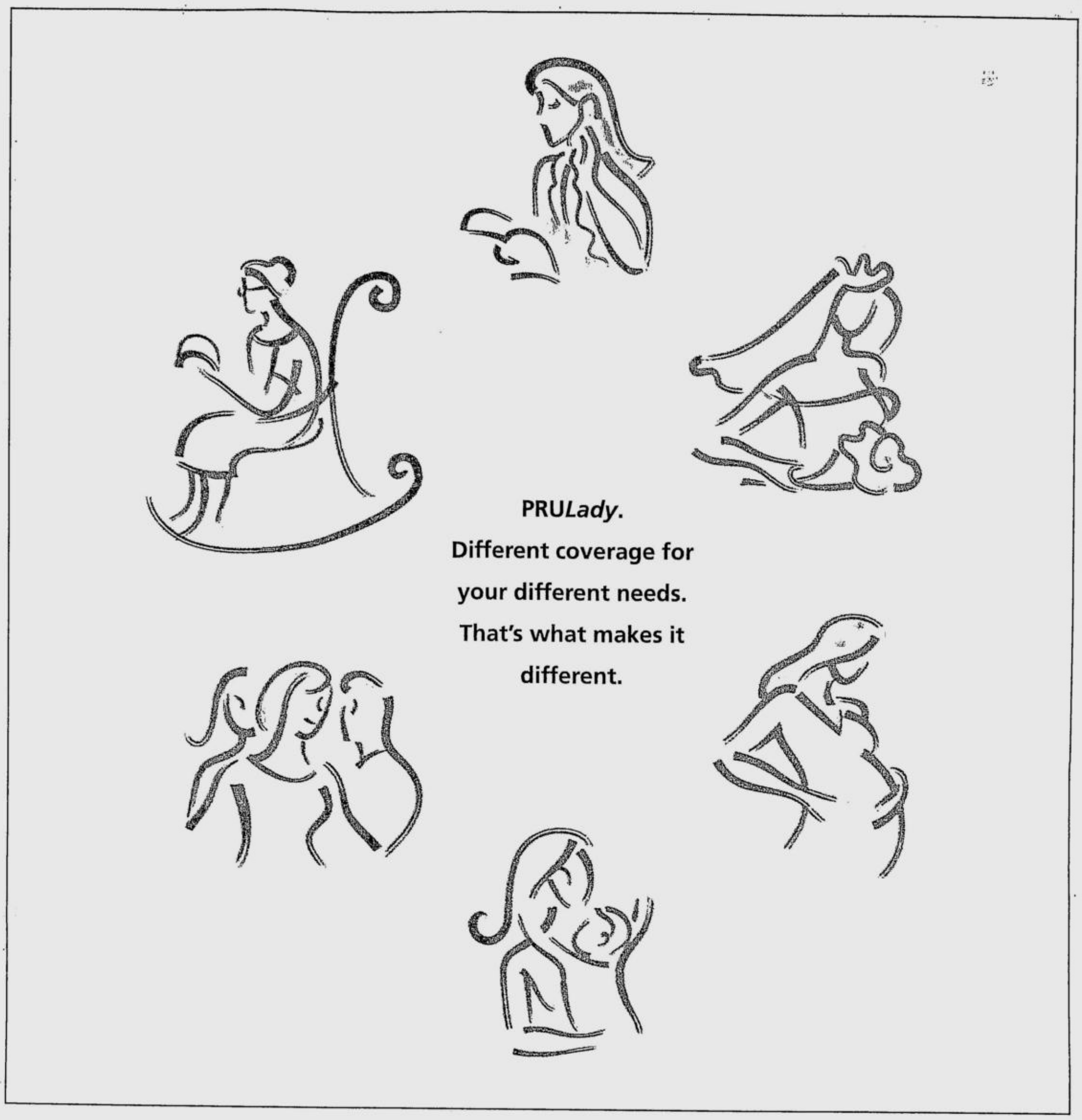
Mayday mayhem at Enchanted Kingdom

ENCHANTED Kingdom teams up with the country's best DJs for a Labor Day party billed "Mayday Mayhem," a magical day filled with laughter, thrills and superb party music from top party jocks like Nicky Jurado and Robert Villaluz of Seveneightorange, Coki and Kimosave of STP (Samahan ng mga Turtabalista ng Pilipinas), Edwin Edralin of K8/ABG, Patch of the Verve Room, Cocoy Puyat and RJ Mayo who, at 15, is the youngest performing disc jock in the country today.

This phenomenal party mill make its mark with partygoers of the metropolis and families alike. Enchanted Kingdom has taken a piece of the club scene and opened its doors to everyone from ages 1-101, where the main focus is to have a family-based event in which everyone can get a taste of excellent club music.

"Mayday Mayhem," one of the highlights of Enchanted Kingdom's 6th anniversary celebration, will be staged at the park's new concert venue which is located near the new "Rio Grande Rapids" raft ride. To avail of the "Mayday Mayhem" passes, park attendees and guests need to have any of the following: a single or accumulated purchase of any food or EK merchandise worth P200 on May 1; a valid Mastercard; or any Vans T-shirt or cap.

The park opens at 2 p.m. on May 1 for the "Mayday Mayhem" recital. Party guests get to win major gift prizes. Meet the DJs and special guests of NU107, Channel [V], and E! Philippines.



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Filipino diva passes away in Rome

BY PABLO TARIMAN

IN THE LATE '70s, I heard three singers who altered my idea of beautiful singing: Montserrat Caballe singing art songs at the Manila Metropolitan Theater, Placido Domingo in his Manila debut as Cavaradossi in Tosca, and soprano Lilia Reyes singing with the CCP Philharmonic (now PPO) under Luis Valencia.

Reyes, according to Musical America, has a "voice that makes one shiver at its beauty," and was last heard as Pamina in the last CCP production of Mozart's "Magic Flute" directed by Sarah Caldwell. She was the first Filipino to sing in five republics of the then Soviet Union with pianist Vadim Prokhorov and was an acclaimed guest artist in the "Festival of Two Worlds" where she hobnobbed with the likes of Gian Carlo Menotti and Bruno Campanella.

Last week, we heard the sad news that Reyes passed away in Rome where she was known as Ms Giorgio Amoroso since 1963.

What do I remember of "dear old Lilia" as the late Rolando Tinio referred to her?

I remember our visits to the music room of National Artist Leandro Locsin, our dinners with the late Elvira Manahan who co-produced her TV show, where she sang with Rico Puno. The TV show irked Tinio who could not imagine her sharing the stage with a pop personality. Lilia told Elvira and me that she saw nothing wrong with what she did. Opera needed a broader TV audience and the only way she could reach out to the pop crowd was to sing with Puno. At that time, Pavarotti was already singing with Loretta Young and was about to record another album with Sting.

LILIA Reyes (right) with English mezzo Patricia Adkins-Chiti and Gianpaolo Chiti in a 1982 music festival in Rome

I also remember accompanying Lilia to an outreach concert in Zambales with pianist Regalado Jose. When we arrived, we were greeted by the sight of a battered upright piano and there was no piano tuner in sight. Lilia risked turning into a mezzo with that instrument, but the show had to go on. She sang outdoors, under a coconut tree. As she sang a tender aria from "Il Puritani," I kept looking with alarm at the ripened coconut hanging precariously above her. The concert went well.

In the '80s, Lilia realized she had to share her friends (Tinio and I) with two other divas, Evelyn Mandac and the Romanian sensation, Nelly Miricioiu, whom she heard in Malacañang as guest of Imelda Marcos. As Lilia passed Tinio and me at the CCP, the future National Artist for Theater would kid Lilia, "Dear Lyn (Evelyn Mandac) is at the main theater singing our favorite Villa-Lobos piece for eight cellos and Pablo is with Dame Nelly (Miricioiu) raving over her Lucia arias."

In her time, Lilia was one of the last great soloists of the Bayanihan Dance Company (the other was Eleonor Calbes) and the last Filipino to be heard in the Soviet Union.

In the late '80s, I heard the sad news that Lilia had a stroke but she had recovered. A throat operation damaged her voice and, in the '90s, I received a xerox note from Lilia addressed to all her Manila friends saying she was staying at home and was busy with ceramics.

When I heard of Lilia's death, I remembered her as Mozart's Pamina and her tender moments in the aria, "Ach, Ich Fulhs (I Feel It)."

She was unforgettable in the Mozart and Bellini arias and just as bewitching in Abelardo's Mutya ng Pasig. I will certainly miss Lilia and our mad moments with Rolando Tinio and Elvira Manahan—all for love of opera.

SOPRANO Lilia Reyes (right, talking to tenor Noel Velasco) backstage after a 1983 performance of Magic Flute. At left is Irene Marcos Araneta while the author is behind.

Here and there

LORIN Maazel, last heard in Manila in the '80s as conductor of the Cleveland Symphony, is the music director designate of the New York Philharmonic. He replaces Kurt Masur who was also heard in Manila in 1998 in the last Manila visit of the New York Philharmonic. I remember Maestro Maazel giving me an interview 30 minutes before his Manila debut. "Musicians make the best ambassadors of goodwill because they are beyond politics," he told me then.

* * *

Philippine High School for the Arts cello scholar Victor Michael Coo won another concerto competition at the Harid School, Florida, where he is now a sophomore. His prize is to play as soloist in the Elgar cello concerto with the school orchestra. Cellist Orlando Cole heard Coo in Florida and was so impressed he suggested that the Filipino audition at Curtis, the school that produced the outstanding Cecile Licad.

Loni, as the young cellist is known to his friends, won a cello concerto competition in the Interlochen Music Camp in Chicago some years back. Meanwhile, Loni's brother, Jonathan Coo, is performing the music of leading Korean composer Geonyong Lee on May 11 at the Philamlife Theater along with violinist Alfonso Bolipata.

* * *

Our condolence to the family of PPO violinist Benjamin Reyes who passed away right after performing in the well-acclaimed concerts of Alexander Tomescu and Cecile Licad. Also to the family of PDI contributor Telly Albert Zulueta whom I met for the first and last time in the 1995 Tagaytay concert of Cecile and Antonio Meneses. She greeted me after the concert, profuse with thanks for a Beethoven sonata played in a Tagaytay hall overlooking Taal Volcano.

The recent New York joint concert of cellist Alban Gerhardt and Cecile Licad was described by avid chamber music watchers as "mind-boggling." Even Licad's son, Otavio Meneses, was euphoric although he was used to the sight of his father's musical partnership with his mother in the past. Licad is again the attraction in Seattle this week playing the seldom heard "Malediction" by Liszt which she first played in several tours with the Prague Chamber Orchestra. Our thanks to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and son Kim for hosting a "snap" dinner for Ms Licad and family last April 4 at the Bistro Lorenzo in Malate. Mayor Atienza told us about his arts program for the poor families in the city.

* * *

The 2001 season of the Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP) opens with Independence Day concerts, which will start in Cebu City June 8. Performances will follow at the Concert at the Park in Manila on June 10 and at the CCP on June 12. Chino Toledo conducts the PPP with soloists Nolyn Cabahug and soprano Rachelle Gerodias. The program: Buenaventura's "By the Hillside," Kasilag's "Legend of Sarimanok," Feliciano's "Overture to La Loba Negra" and excerpts from the *zarzuela*, "Walang Sugat." The rest of the season concerts will mark the return of British conductor Adrian Brown on Aug. 31 with Renato Lucas as soloist in the Elgar cello concerto. The closing concerts on Dec. 7 and 8 in Cebu and Bohol will also mark the return of Japanese conductor Tetsuji Honna who was last heard with the Nagoya Philharmonic. Alfonso Bolipata will be the soloist in the Beethoven D Major concerto.

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A night of chamber music at St. Cecilia's Hall

THE ST. Scholastica's College of Music Sr. Baptista Battig Music Foundation will present "An Evening of Chamber Music" on May 5, 5 p.m., at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Leon Guinto Street, Manila.

The stellar cast of performers will include the nation's premier chamber ensemble, the Battig Piano Trio, Nenen Espina-Alfornon, Luz Morete-Martinez and Gina Medina. Also to be featured are Promil kid Babes Saraza, the SSC Chamber Orchestra and other outstanding students of the St. Scholastica's College of Music.

The repertoire will include Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in D Minor, Arbos' "Seguidillas Gitanas," Cayabyab's "Pamulinawen" and Abelardo-Zuniega's Cavatina for piano trio; Ravel's Tzigane for violin and piano, Vivaldi's Concerto for four violins, Bach's concerto for two violins, Villalobos' Bachianas Brasilleiras and arias by Mozart and Bellini for two sopranos.

The Battig Piano Trio is made up of three exceptional musicians: Arturo Molina, violin; Wilfredo Pasamba, cello and J. Greg Zuniega, piano. All are faculty members at St. Scholastica's. These young men studied in Russia in the 1980s and are now very active as leading soloists and pedagogues in the country's musical scene.

Violinist Gina Medina and soprano Nenen Espina-Alfornon both graduated from St. Scholastica's College of Music and attended the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. Medina is the coordinator for the Philippine Research for Developing Instrumental Soloists. Soprano Luz Morete-Martinez is a graduate of the UP College of Music and studied under the renowned German soprano Reri Grist.

The SSC Chamber Orchestra, which will perform under the baton of Arturo Molina and Wilfredo Pasamba, will also be presented with featured violin soloists, Promil gifted child Diomedes "Babes" Saraza and brother Ivan Maurice Saraza, as well as young violinists Denise Santos, Iareena Inacay, Ma. Socorro Cruz and Rechelle Alcances.

Proceeds of the concert will go to the St. Scholastica's College of Music Scholarship Fund for promising young musicians.

For ticket reservations, call Dimples at 524-7686 to 89.

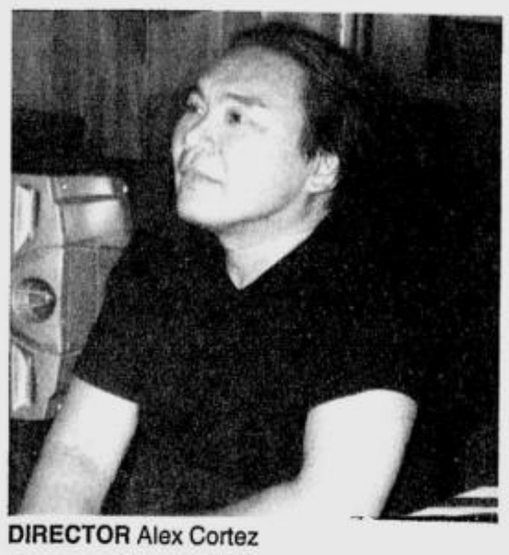
THE BATTIG Trio, composed of (from left) violinist Arturo Molina, pianist J. Greg Zuniega and cellist Wilfredo Pasamba

Humanity and sexuality highlighted in Dulaang UP's gay plays

Director Alex Cortez hopes that audiences will view the play's emotions rather than the characters' sexual orientation

MON Confiado, Mario Magalona, Dino Orig, Melvin Lee and Jethro Patalinghung

PHOTOS: ROGER CARPIO



DIRECTOR Alex Cortez

BY WALTER ANG

FOR MOST theaters, summer usually means almost-empty seats as companies take a rest from season performances to conduct workshops. But Dulaang UP fills the void with "Dobol" and "Baclofen," which will be staged this May.

Director Alex Cortez, with his long hair and imposing stance, brazenly and unapologetically described their summer offerings "Dobol" and "Baclofen" as "gay" plays in a press conference held recently at TGIFriday's at Tomas Morato. The embers of the "Live Show" brouhaha have not cooled down and it seems that these two plays will continue to fan the issues of humanity and sexuality.

Having recently directed Shakespeare's "Richard III," Cortez wanted to stage something light and funny this summer but changed his mind after coming across the scripts of both plays.

"Dobol" is about a stuntman about to jump off the Quezon Bridge as he examines his life and past relationships. "Baclofen" takes the audience into a seedy beauty parlor with a motley crew of tricycle driver, a parlor owner and an apprentice. Cortez gleefully mentioned watching the latter play would help one find out why "pedicures can be murder."

The material notwithstanding, Cortez cast straight actors to portray gay roles in this offering. He claimed it was "more difficult for the actors but there is more acting involved." Turning apprehensive actors around did not pose a problem for the man who staged "The Trial/Ang Paglilitis," a production that enjoyed an unprecedented 140 performances.

"All you have to do is explain the character to your actors and then push a button and there you have it!" said Cortez, quickly adding, "You just have to hope it's the right button." It was pretty evident he was able to push all the right buttons as his actors performed excerpts from the play that afternoon.

Character actor Mon Confiado confessed that he wanted to back out after the first reading of the script, but changed his mind after realizing that the stories were more than just about two men kissing each other on the lips.

As the tricycle driver in "Baclofen," he joins Melvin Lee, last seen in the movie "Markova" as one of the title character's friends, and Jethro Patalinghung, who was part of last year's "firewaterwoman."

Awareness

Cortez said "there's a growing interest in gay plays, but it's not enough just to qualify [them as such]." He also stressed there really was no difference between a "straight" play and a "gay" play and that Filipino audiences would have to be more aware of these issues.

The cast echoed the sentiment that their decision to participate in the production stems more from the material than the roles they had to portray. Dino Orig, an anchor for the ANCNews Channel, praised the material for being "very true and powerful" and points out that audiences will recognize beyond the sexual orientation of characters, "the emotions of people who love each other." He plays Ding in "Dobol," together with Mario Magallona, who plays the title character.

"Baclofen" was written by Chris Martinez, who resigned from Basic Advertising last year as creative director to take up film at UP. On the other hand, "Dobol" was written by Rene Villanueva, who's in the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards Hall of Fame. Theatergoers are in for a treat as there are plans to tour the production in Cebu and other provinces later this year. In the meantime, catch these productions at the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan, Bulwagang Rizal at the UP Diliman campus. Performances begin this week until May 13.

A venue for independent filmmakers

THE MOVIES that come out at your regular theater are not the only Filipino movies you can watch. The fact is there are several independent filmmakers who have some quality movies, but unfortunately do not have the financial support to afford distribution to theaters. Of course, the politics within the movie industry among production outfits make it difficult for some of these filmmakers to get their foot in the door. Well, there is no need to fuss because independent Filipino movies now have a venue for screening.

Matina, located along J. Nakpil Street in Malate, is opening the doors every Tuesday night for showing independent Filipino movies. Dubbed as Cinema Matina, this night of movies is meant to give chance for independent filmmakers to show their movies, and for viewers to interact with filmmakers about movie production and other aspects of filmmaking.

Cinema Matina is prepared to show an impressive lineup of movies, all of which have been given a special award by the Gawad CCP under the category of full-length independent movies. May 1's slate boasts of Ed Lejano's "Motel." May 8, meanwhile, features "Still Lives," directed by Jon Red.

More movies are scheduled to come out every Tuesday thereafter, hoping to make Cinema Matina a regular venue for independent filmmakers to show their works, and for viewers to experience something different from the regular crop of Filipino movies that come out in theaters.

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SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

but the reason for going there is that the Orchidarium is one of those few undiscovered spots that bring back contact with nature that is lost while living in Manila.

IT'S/ p.F2

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Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
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May 7 to May 13	May 16
May 14 to May 20	May 23
May 21 to May 27	May 30
May 28 to June 3	June 6
June 4 to June 10	June 13
June 11 to June 17	June 20
June 18 to June 24	June 27
June 25 to July 1	July 4
July 2 to July 8	July 11
July 9 to July 15	July 18

   A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
   - The amount won will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
5. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
   - There will be three (3) grand draw winners.
   - All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
   - The three (3) Grand Prize winners shall each be entitled to reimbursement of one-year tuition fee of one first degree family member of school age (elementary to college) up to a maximum of ₱100,000 subject to submission of proof of tuition fee payment or school assesment and birth certificate of the child.
   - Otherwise, if client does not have a first degree family member of school age, or if client cannot submit required documentation, client then wins a cash prize of ₱50,000.
   - Grand Draw will be held on July 18, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. A DTI representative will be present to witness the draw.
   - An accountholder can only win once. Taxes on all prizes shall be shouldered by BPI.
   - All Grand Draw winners can claim their prizes at 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati. Just present your Express Teller Card and one (1) valid ID (drivers license, Company ID, SSS).
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7. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
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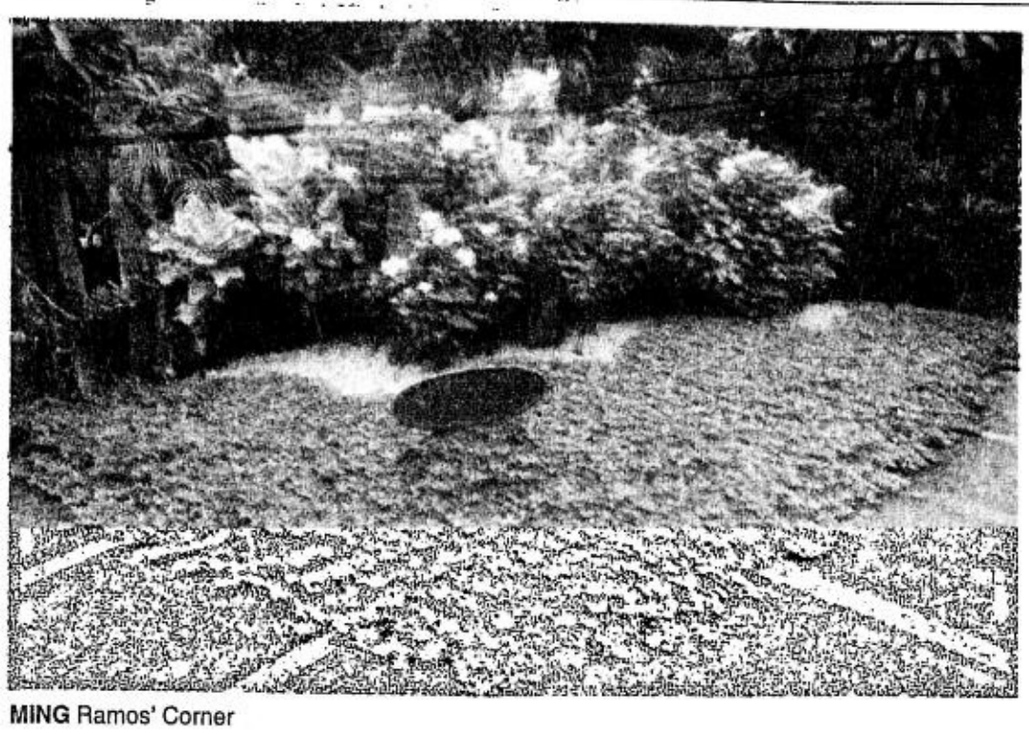
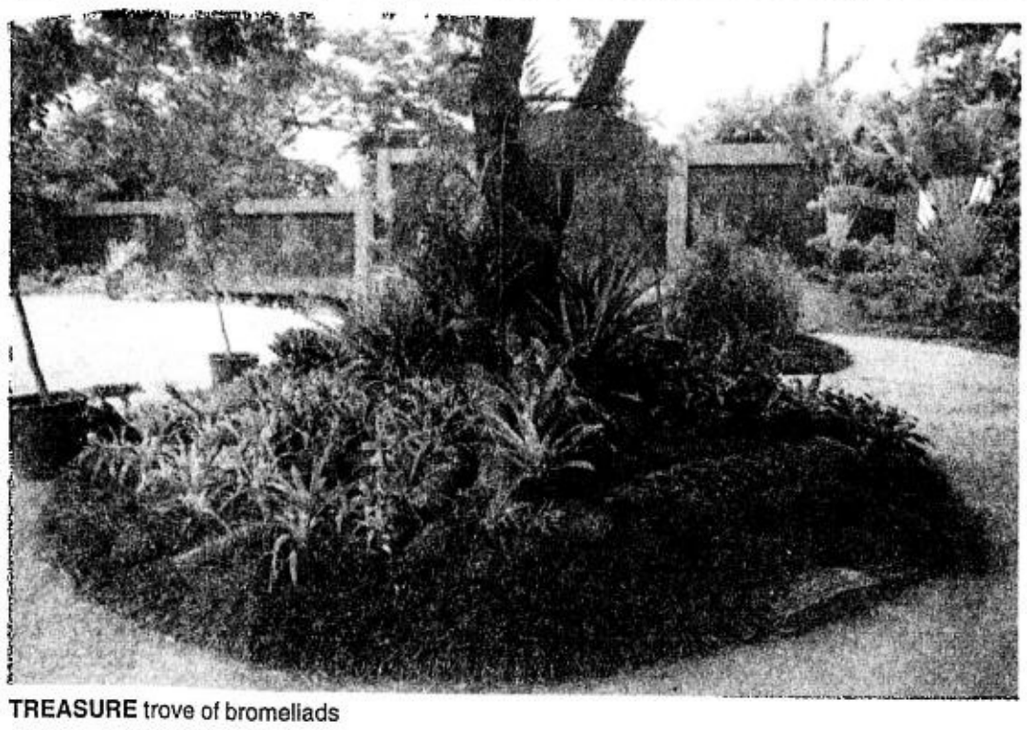


MING Ramos' Corner

An enchanting repository of flora and fauna, a visit to the 1-hectare orchids paradise can de-stress one's mind and body



TREASURE trove of bromeliads

It's a lush life at Manila Orchidarium

(From page F1)

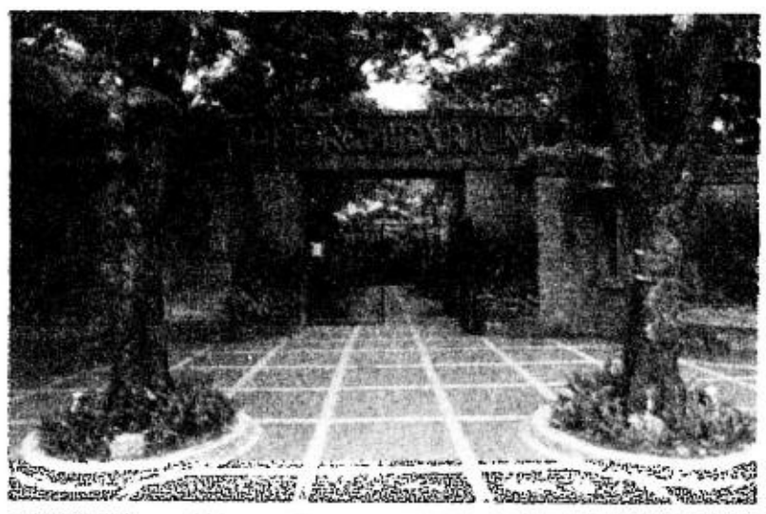
The Manila Orchidarium is an improbable 1-hectare of green tucked into the edge of Rizal Park between the National Museum and the Museum of the Filipino People, situated across the park from the Museo Pambata and Intramuros. The location is easily accessible but the aversion of the Pinoy psyche to museums, parks and cultural destinations makes accessing the location highly improbable to most. Its anonymity actually works out for the better. The few visitors who have been enchanted by the Orchidarium want to keep it a secret because there are so few peaceful places to de-stress mind and body in the center of Manila.

A former parking lot within the Rizal Park Complex was turned into an enchanting repository of orchids, other exotic blooms, attractive ornamental plants and fishes in manmade ponds. To start off the Orchidarium, the Philippine Orchid Society and the Fern, the Nature Society of the Philippines and friends donated the initial collection of plants.

Surviving against all odds and the highly polluted urban environment, the garden flourished. It evolved into an urban haven for flora and fauna and now includes a butterfly sanctuary, with added sports and leisure attractions like fishing facilities and rock wall climbing, an art gallery and a fine dining outlet aptly called Lush Life.

From the entrance gate that faces Agrifina Circle, a path welcomes visitors under a trellis with waves of vines that sets the mood for the Orchidarium experience. Everything is lush from that point onward. Exotic tropical plants endemic to the Philippines can be found at the paved walk that meanders through the small park.

IT'S/ p.F3



GATEWAY to orchids paradise

BUTTERFLY Pavilion

LUSH Life restaurant

FIRST Ladies' Blooms

GARDEN of ornamentals

PHOTOS: RANDY HORMILLOSA

At the Ladies' Accessories Department

It's a lush life at Manila Orchidarium

(From page F2)

Rich source of orchids

A visit to the park reveals that the Philippines has the reputation of being the richest source of orchids in the world where there are 944 identified species in 130 genera with 74 percent of the species found only in the Philippines. Orchid blooms are seasonal, so depending on the time of year there could be a chance to see *Vanda sanderiana*, the waling-waling that is known as the Queen of Philippine Orchids, the *Grammtophyllum walisii*, called the King of Philippine Orchids whose arrangement of flowers could span up to 2 meters long.

Palm Beach is another stop in the walk through the garden where the landscape groups a collection of palms featuring the *anahaw*, chosen as the national leaf of the Philippines because of its beauty and symmetry. Other palms in the collection include the Fishtail, Blue Palm, Pinanga, Majestic Palm and the MacArthur Palm.

There is an impressive collection of vandas, cultivated orchids that are considered to be the most magnificent genus of the orchid family. Vandas bloom with large, long-living flowers that bloom several times a year. Although vandas are ordinary orchids seen everywhere in the country, the visual impact of seeing so many gathered together makes an unforgettable impression.

Satisfying experience

The flitting colors of butterfly wings in the Butterfly Pavilion give the illusion of flowers taking flight. A rainforest within the enclosed pavilion places butterflies in their natural habitat where city dwellers can observe how they evolve from eggs to caterpillars, then to sleeping pupae until they their wings develop into artwork of natural forms and colors.

There is much more to the Orchidarium: a collection of hybrid *mussaendas* named after each of the country's First Ladies, hybrid *gumamelas* of all types and colors named after 11 courageous women who struggled for our freedom during the Philippine Revolution, beds of bromeliads, themed plant pockets with fiery red blooms or scented blooms.

In a city like Manila where there are so few places where jaded urbanites can reclaim contact with nature instead of experiencing air-conditioned nature in the window displays of mall flower shops, the Orchidarium deserves a visit. Escape the summer heat, take a walk around the plants at the Orchidarium, see butterflies, go fishing or rock wall climbing, or just sit on the deck of Lush Life restaurant and shut Manila out for a few hours.

If nature is not your trip, trip on food at lunch or dinner at Lush Life restaurant. That's a satisfying experience.

The Manila Orchidarium is a project of the Clean and Green Foundation headed by former First Lady Amelita Ramos. It is open daily except Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entrance fees: adults at P100, students and seniors at P60. Additional fees; rock wall climbing at P50 and fishing at P25. For information, call 527-6376/6378.

E-mail the author at afy@pacific.net.ph

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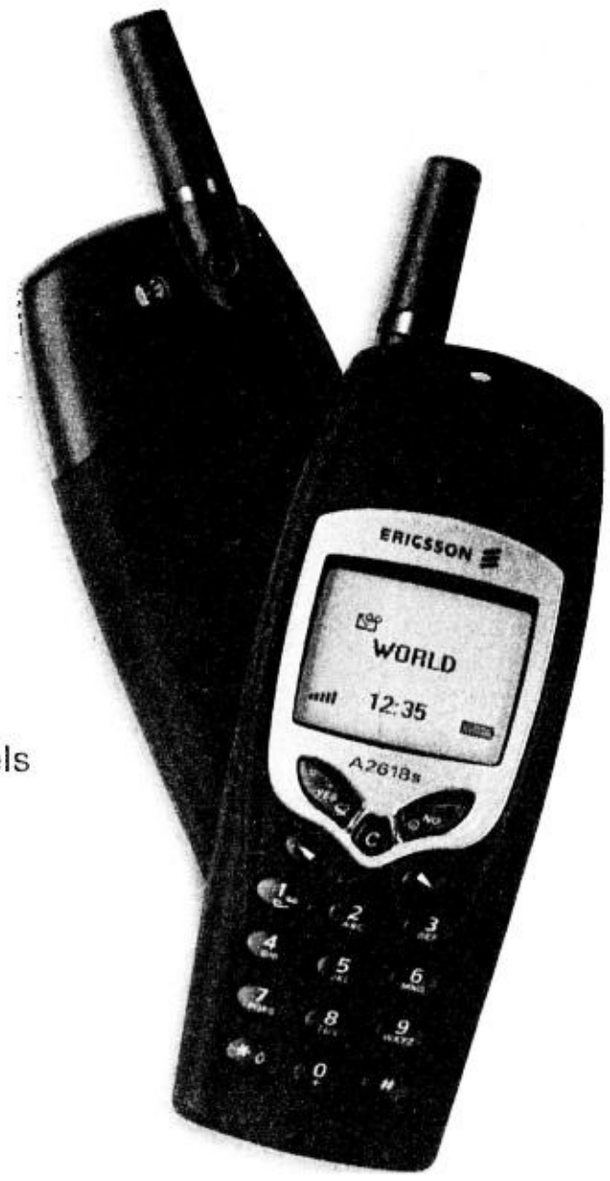

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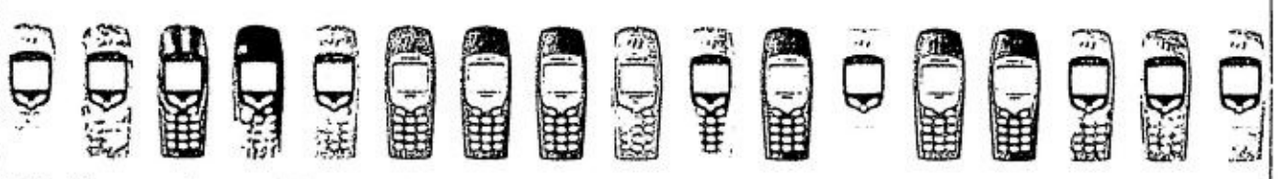

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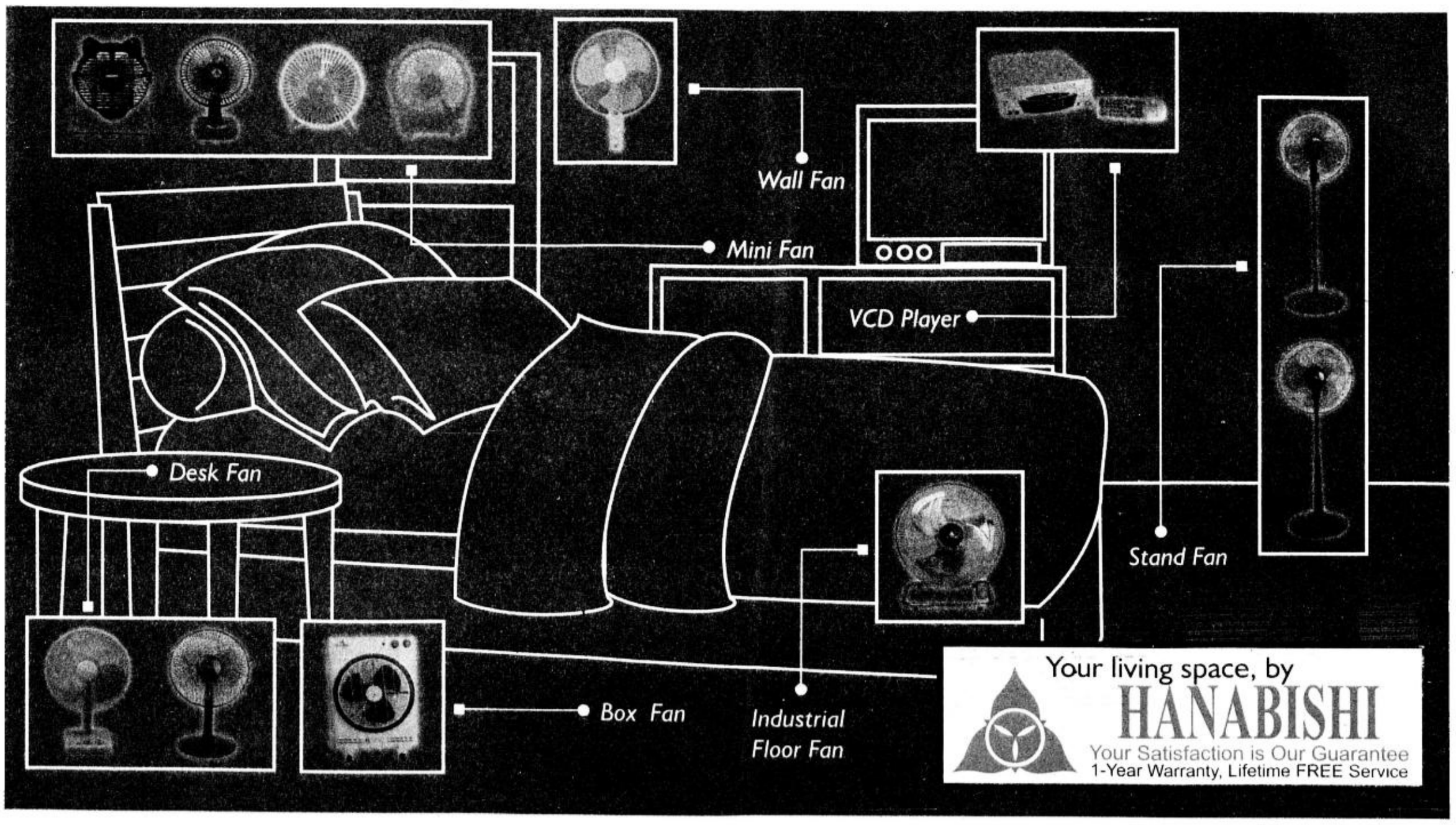

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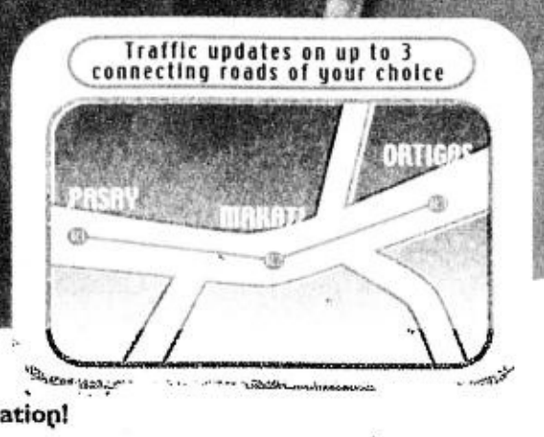

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BY ADIE C. PENA

KID stuff? Contrary to popular belief, "movable books" (yes, those books that have movable paper parts) were initially created for a very scholarly audience almost 700 years ago. Men of letters were turning parchment wheels and lifting paper flaps five centuries before children found pull-tabs and pop-ups in books. In fact, movable novelties aimed at a younger market only came into existence in the middle of the 19th century when publishers recognized the commercial potential of books to en-

THOSE/ p.G4

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T'BOLI weavers with Stella Chiu (third from left), producer of the film documentary and project coordinator of the book, and authors Corazon S. Alvina and Ma. Elena P. Paterno (third and second from right)

T'BOLI weavers with Bookmark general manager Lory Tan (center). Published and produced by Bookmark, "DreamWeavers" book and video are available at all Bookmark branches and in all Filipino Bookstore branches in Alabang, Glorietta, Katipunan, Shangri-La Mall, Malate, Davao City, as well as in other major bookstores.

T'NALAK

Woven from what dreams have come

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

THE TINTINABULATION of the tiny brass bells of the T'bolis alerts you at once to the presence of something unusual. These people are so adorned that when they approach, you can say you actually hear, more than see, them coming.

At the recent opening of the *t'nalak* exhibit titled "Mga Hinabing Panaginip" at the Museum of the Filipino People last April 17, T'boli weavers young and old turned up in full regalia. At the Tambunting and Villongco Hall, we turned every time they moved around, half-expecting to see a theatrical performance starting somewhere in the room.

The event also featured the screening of "DreamWeavers/Hinabing Panaginip," Fruto Corre's 45-minute video documentary on the T'bolis' way of life around Lake Sebu in South Cotabato; and the launching of the book "Dreamweavers" by Ma. Elena P. Paterno, Corazon S. Alvina, Fr. Rene B. Javellana and Sandra B. Castro, with photography by Neal Oshima and book design by Felix Mago Miguel, showing "every single design known to the T'boli weavers at the end of the millennium."

The trimedia event was hosted by Bookmark Inc. and the National Museum in celebration of the museum's centennial. In attendance were leading culture figures such as poet-critic Virgilio Almario, poet-playwright Virginia Moreno, museum director Fr. Gabriel Casal

Heritage fabrics

But more amazing still, aside from the indigenous people's tinkling presence, was the lavish display of the 100 best *t'nalak* patterns of the last millennium, the greatest number of these heritage fabrics ever housed in one room. Featured with them were large reproductions of Oshima's photographs highlighting the weavers and scenes from Lake Sebu.

THE RECENTLY launched book and video.

These have been donated by Bookmark to the National Museum to form part of its permanent collection of Philippine weaves. The exhibit will run for six months at the North Wing, 4F Museum of the Filipino People (the former Finance Building), at the Agrifina Circle in Rizal Park.

At the opening, there was a silent auction of 42 museum-grade pieces woven especially for the occasion by the most accomplished weavers of Lake Sebu. Proceeds would be returned directly to the weavers and weaving community of Lake Sebu, "whose contribution to Filipino cultural heritage is so integral to the rich cultural tapestry of our nation."

We didn't instantly take to this weave the first time we saw it. We thought it was drab, too monochromatic, the abstract patterns almost similar. It had a waxed or painted look, the texture hard, stiff and rough, almost as if woven from leaves and bark of trees. "How can any person wear this?" we thought.

In fact, of the indigenous weaves from the South, we appreciated better fabrics that were softer, finer, more intricate in design, more colorful in hue, such as those of the Yakan and the Maranaw.

Tedious process

What is *t'nalak*?

It is abaca cloth woven with brown, black, red and white patterns that have been dreamed of or inherited by the weaver, who claims to have been directly inspired by Fu Dalu, the spirit of the abaca plant.

"It is made of the whitest abaca fibers connected end to end with the smallest possible knots, and dyed red and blackest brown," Paterno writes in the book.

It is used in rituals or as work of art, as a bride price or dowry. A length of the fabric could buy a horse, a house, a parcel of land, or two carabaos. A piece offered in sacrifice could reportedly release one from illness.

Paterno relates how these patterns are bestowed by Fu Dalu on the weaver through dreams. The skill of the weaver lies in "transferring patterns from memory to loom."

The process is quite tedious. The abaca is stripped of its inner fiber, which is softened, dried and sorted for thickness. Then each filament is connected end to end "with knots so tiny they're almost invisible."

The threads are arranged on the loom "with mathematical precision." They are tied to determine which part is to be dyed red, which part black, and which to remain white (tied with waxed thread), then immersed in cauldrons of dyes from juices of leaves or roots.

The threads are returned to the loom for weaving. The resulting cloth is beaten, the rounded fibers flattened, then the cloth is "bathed in ash, polished with a shell to give it sheen."

Natural world

We started to appreciate this piece of creation when we learned what the T'bolis had woven into those cloths. What seem like a lot of crisscrossing colored threads are actually visions from their dreams. What seem like abstract patterns are actually figurative and very real to the mind's eye.

Most of the patterns come from nature, the natural surroundings of the T'bolis. There are dreamed designs of a butterfly, an eagle's feather, an insect found in the floor dust, a nimbus cloud, the leaves of an unusual plant or fern, the branches of the *kekem* tree.

There's an inherited design based on a hunting figure with bow and arrow. There are also spears for hunting wild boar, a warrior's shield, even the trousers of the epic hero Tudbulul.

One pattern taken after the traditional hairstyle of the T'boli is supposed to symbolize a beautiful woman. Another pattern features Fu El, goddess of the waters. The *beniteng* represents a mermaid, spirit of rivers, lakes and seas, with hair as long as the strands of the abaca.

A pattern may recreate motion by alternating designs from big to small. An example is one which, when viewed closely, twists and turns to achieve the effect of motion. It represents "the movement of a leaf as it is blown by the wind."

A dreamed design imitates "the way the great wild eagle Manaul stretches its wings as it flies in the sky." Another recreates the stretched wings of a bat, and still another the wings of the bird *heyongi* flying in the rain.

Important designs

Certain patterns involve certain taboos. While weaving the *gemayaw logi*, for instance, the weaver must abstain from sleeping with a man until the completion of her work.

Prominently displayed are the two most important designs known to the T'boli weaver.

One is the *bangala*, woven at the exhibit by Boi Diwa Ofung, the only surviving woman leader in Lake Sebu. The finest, most intricate, most detailed of the lot, it is said to be "the highest *t'nalak* design that all weavers aspire to know and weave."

The other is the highly valued *kunu*, three separate panels of varying hues and patterns woven together. "Only the best weavers may weave it," says a threatening note, "and the presumptuous who try but are not ready for the honor of weaving it are punished with illness by Fu Dalu."

What haunts us is the *bëd mugul*, or "the dying weaver" *(naghihingalong maghahabi)*. It is a pattern left by a dying weaver, who passed the unfinished design on to her daughter.

A few years ago, we bought a strip of *t'nalak* in Davao City and gave it to someone as *pasalubong*, thinking that maybe she would find it useful as table runner.

After seeing this exhibit, we texted her right away to say we might have committed something sacrilegious by suggesting its use as table runner. Because, you see, this cloth is almost sacred.

T'BOLI weavers present the fabrics at the *t'nalak* exhibit as part of the trimedia event which included the launching of the book and video documentary, "DreamWeavers," at the Museum of the Filipino People in Agrifina Circle, Rizal Park, Manila.

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Parents' guide to choosing a preschool to be launched

ANVIL Publishing is launching the first-ever guide to preschools in Manila at 5 p.m. on May 19, at National Bookstore, Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City. Authored by a team of competent educators, writers and mothers, this handy book is packed with information that will assist parents in the crucial process of deciding the best preschool for their precious toddler.

The book includes chapters on preparing the child for the school routine, trends and philosophies in preschools, including basic information on 100 schools all over Metro Manila. Also included in this directory are information on class sizes, teacher-to-student ratio, tuition fees and the teaching method used.

Edited by Gianna Montinola and co-authored Gina Jocson, Maribel Kawsek, Chichi Lizot, Rhona Lopa, Lisa Periquet and Gretchen Recto, the book also devotes a section on schools for special children. Maricar de Ocampo served as educational consultant.

Having all gone through preschool hunting, they all decided it was about time other younger parents learn from their experience and make wiser choices. Valued at P375, it will also save parents the time and gas-consuming effort of surveying various schools.

An easily portable book good for pass-on readership, "Your Guide to Pre-schools in Metro Manila" will soon be released in leading bookstores.

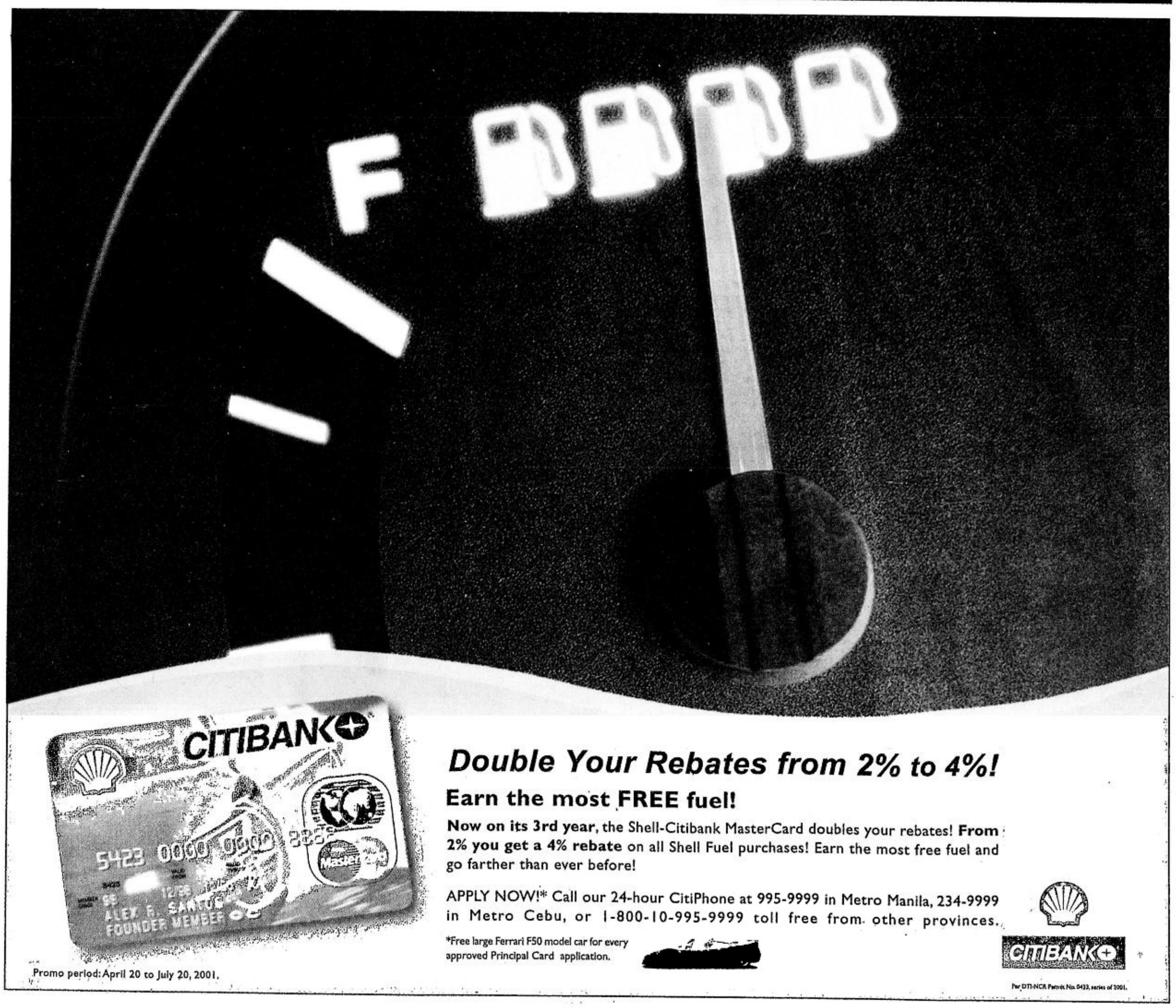
What one should know about dating

MORE than knowing all the right moves, find out if you have the right attitude to go on a date. "To Date or Not to Date" invites young people to check their attitudes on love and relationships before going on a date.

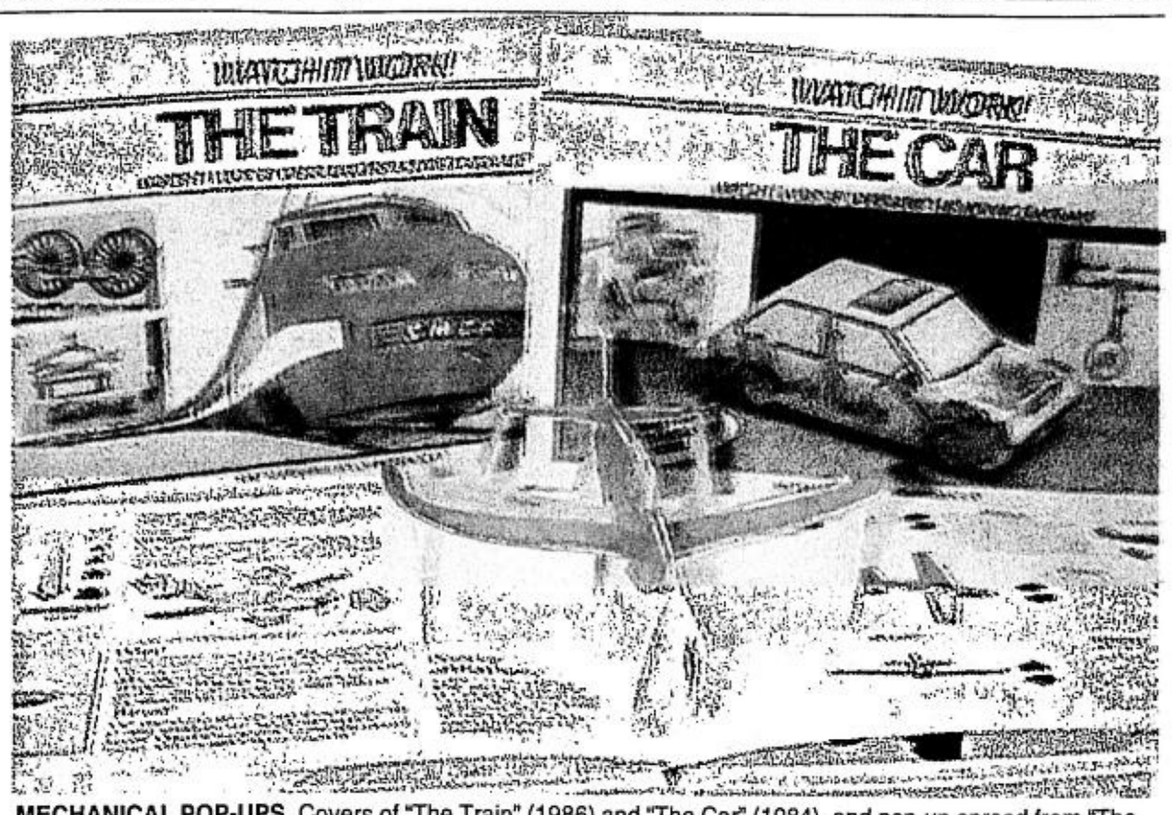
The perfect romantic read, "To Date or Not to Date" is the first booklet in the "Cool Talks on Hot Topics" series, meant to address the issues young people face today. Get a copy for yourself, for a friend, or for a teenage son or daughter.

Author Boris Joaquin is a trainer for the True Love Waits movement, youth director of The Living Circle and a speaker for youth talks on various issues.

Copies of the booklet are available at all PCBS and National Bookstore outlets. Call 531-0141 to -42 or visit www.omflit.com.



MOVABLE MATH. German-edition covers of Ron van der Meer's "Mathmaster" series (3+,5+ and 7+ from 1998, 1999 and 2000, respectively) and movable spread from "The Math Kit" (1994)



MECHANICAL POP-UPS. Covers of "The Train" (1986) and "The Car" (1984), and pop-up spread from "The Plane" (1985) from Ray Marshall and John Bradley's "Watch It Work!" series

Those marvelous movable books

(From page G1)

tertain and to amuse.

If the wheel is man's greatest invention, then the revolving paper wheel, or *volvelle*, is the movable bookmaker's greatest innovation. The earliest documented example of a movable part can be found in the British Library—Raymund Lullii's "Ars Generalis," a 1306 manuscript that has a rotatable paper disk. It has four astrological tables, one of which has two round, movable parchment figures attached through the center by a thread.

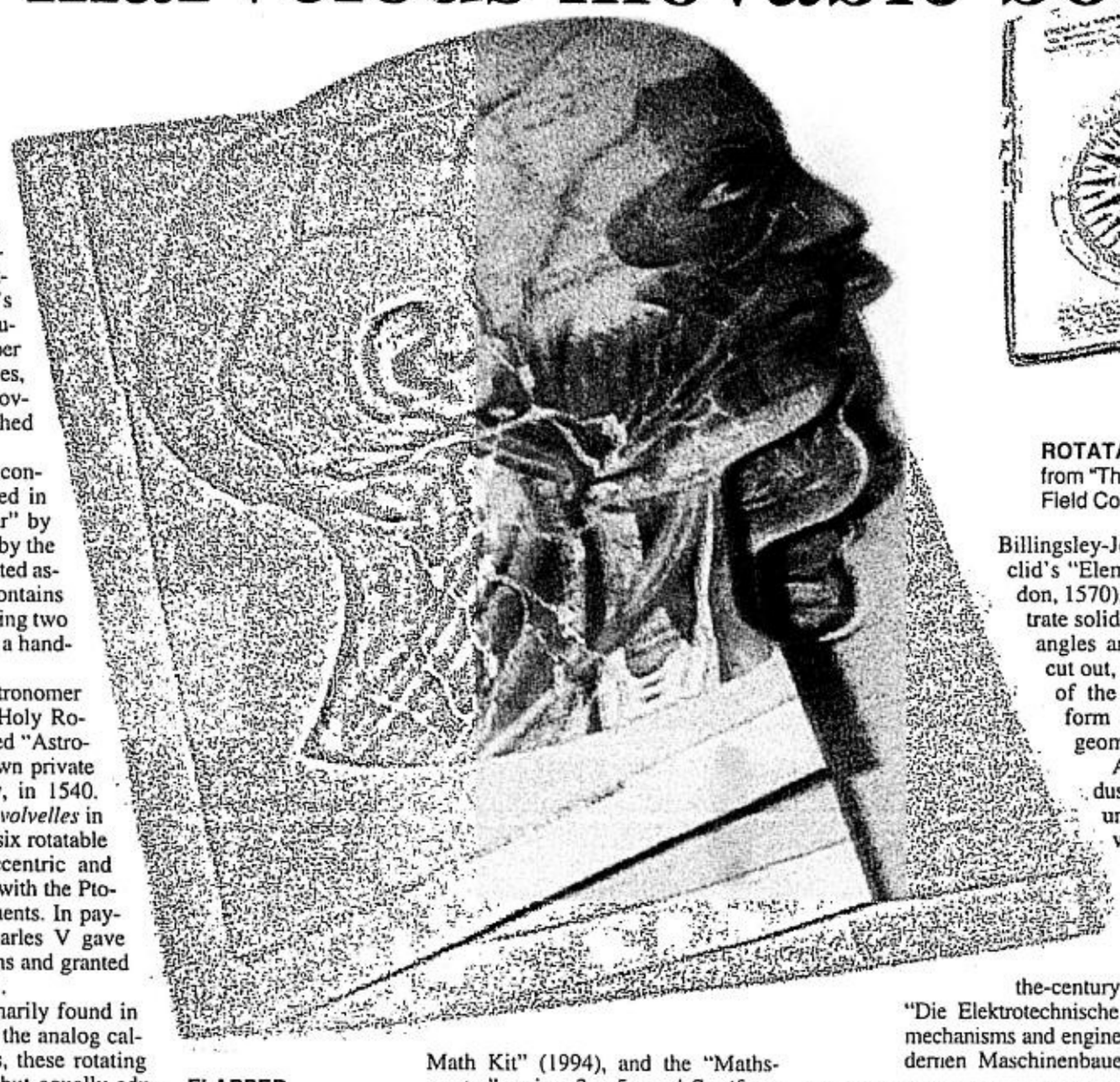
The earliest printed work containing a *volvelle* was published in Nuremberg in 1474. "Kalendar" by Johannes Mueller, also known by the name Regiomontanus, a celebrated astronomer and mathematician, contains a simple lunar calculator involving two cutout movable disks tied onto a hand-colored woodcut of the moon.

Petrus Apainus (the royal astronomer to Charles V, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, 1519-56) published "Astronomicum Caesareum" at his own private press in Ingoldstadt, Germany, in 1540. Some of the 21 large, complex *volvelles* in the folio contained as many as six rotatable dials that showed central, eccentric and epicyclic motion to harmonize with the Ptolemaic theory of stellar movements. In payment for this masterpiece, Charles V gave Apianus the sum of 3,000 florins and granted him a patent of nobility in 1541.

Though *volvelles* were primarily found in astronomy books and used for the analog calculation of planetary positions, these rotating disks had other nonscientific, but equally educational, purposes. Published in 1648 in Nuremberg, "Poetischer Trichter" by the German poet Georg Philipp Harsdorffer includes a movable "new-word-making" paper device called the "Fivefold Thinking Circle of the German Language." The *volvelle* features an inner circle with prefixes around the edge, an outer circle with suffixes, and interior circles with vowels, consonants and diphthongs.

Through the centuries, the rotating wheel has been likewise explored in other forms. "The Sailor's Pocket Book" (1877) by Capt. F.G.D. Bedford, R.N. features a movable paper compass; while a "Kodak Master Photoguide" (1951) contains five pages with rotatable disks, multilayered in some instances, that can calculate daylight exposure, flood light, flash exposure, effective aperture and depth of field.

Today, people are still learning with the aid of these turning paper wheels. Pop-up maestro Ron van Der Meer's four "interactive" books—"The Math Kit" (1994), and the "Mathsmaster" series: 3+, 5+ and 7+ (from 1998, 1999 and 2000, respectively)—employ modern-day *volvelles* that teach readers, young and old alike, the rudiments of mathematics.



FLAPPED DIAGRAM. "Dissected Manikin Showing the Organs of the Head in their Relative Position" (1885) from "The Book of Health: A Reliable Family Physician"

ROTATABLE PAPER DISKS. Navigational compass from "The Sailor's Pocket Book" (1877) and "Depth of Field Computer" from "Kodak Master Photoguide" (1951)

Flaps

The next innovation on the movable scene was the flap; and medical texts were the first to contain these movable pieces of paper. The earliest publication to use the flapped diagram (also called the "dissected plate" or "superimposed plate") was "Tabulae Sex" by anatomist Vesalius and printed in Venice in 1538. The "Adam and Eve" plates—the male figure had five superimposed wood cuts, the female had four—caused a major sensation throughout Europe, prompting other medical practitioners to follow suit. Subsequent applications included obstetrical manuals, e.g. George Spratt's "Obstetric Tables" (1850), and practical guides to livestock care, e.g. Andrew A. Gardenier's "Handbook of Ready Reference" (1897).

With improved printing technology in the 20th century, paper flaps were replaced by printed acetate overlays, made from plastic which were definitely less expensive to produce than the die-cut paper pieces that had to be glued individually by hand onto the pages. In 1983, the "all-paper" movable medical book returned with a vengeance—in the form of "The Human Body" by Jonathan Miller and David Pelham, published by Jonathan Cape Limited.

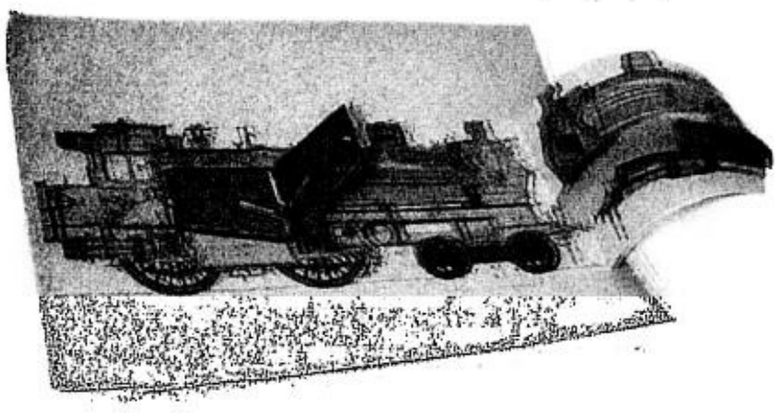
The groundbreaking pop-up book featured realistic three-dimensional illustrations, prompting a reviewer in the Nov. 26, 1983 issue of The Economist to write: "The Victorian fashion for pop-up picture books has come back [and] the worst one [this year] is 'The Human Body.' Graphically drawn and colored in butcher-shop tones, the pop-ups are repellent. This book can be a success only if older children are drawn to it for its morbid aspect. This is a good example of books designed to attract the unbookish, uninformed buyer."

No one was apparently swayed by the review. "The Human Body" was a success (over 900,000 copies have been sold since then) and was followed a year later by "The Facts of Life," which featured pop-up illustrations of the human male and female reproductive systems, the fertilization of the egg and the subsequent development of the baby.

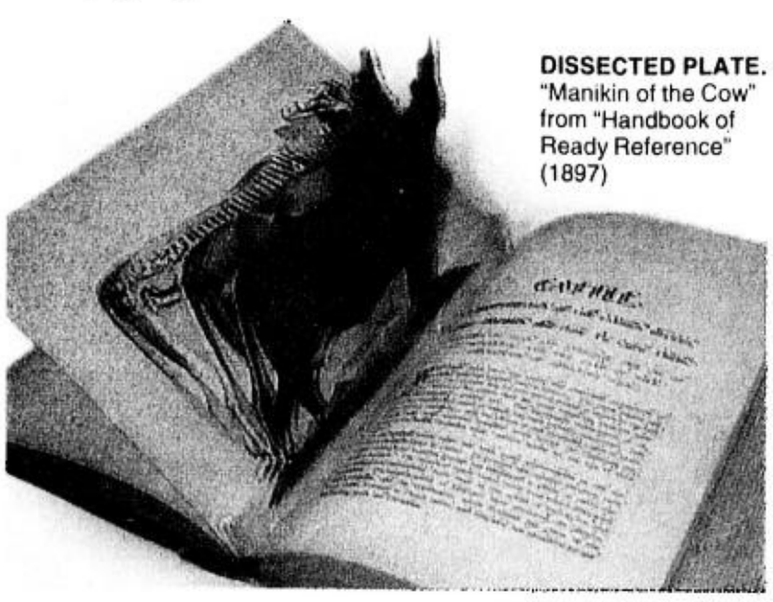
While it was the medical field that made wide use of the flapped diagram, there were other academic applications as well. In the Henry Billingsley-John Dee edition of Euclid's "Elements" (John Daye, London, 1570), flaps were used to illustrate solid geometry. Sixty tiny triangles and rectangles, engraved, cut out, and attached to 37 pages of the book, "popped up" to form cones, cubes and other geometrical figures.

A consequence of the Industrial Age was the desire to understand the numerous inventions made during the 1800s. The movable flap was likewise utilized for mechanical illustrations—examples of which are the turn-of-the-century electrical equipment in "Die Elektrotechnische Praxis" (1900), and the mechanisms and engines in "Die Praxis Des Modernen Maschinenbaues Modell-Atlas" (1909).

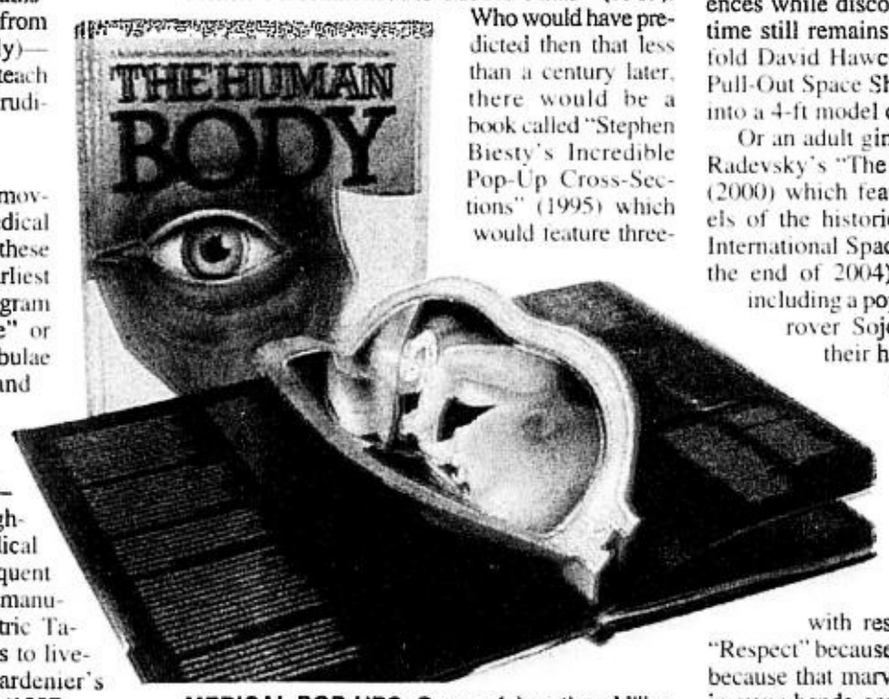
Who would have predicted then that less than a century later, there would be a book called "Stephen Biesty's Incredible Pop-Up Cross-Sections" (1995) which would feature three-dimensional cross-sections of a fire engine, a rescue helicopter and a space shuttle?



SUPERIMPOSED PLATE. "De Locomotief: Voor Oververhitten Stoom" (circa 1900)



DISSECTED PLATE. "Manikin of the Cow" from "Handbook of Ready Reference" (1897)



MEDICAL POP-UPS. Cover of Jonathan Miller and David Pelham's "The Human Body" (1983) and 24-week fetus pop-up from "The Facts of Life" (1984)

Teaching tool

Today, more than ever, the movable book continues to be a teaching tool. Ray Marshall and John Bradley's "Watch It Work!" series ("The Car," "The Plane" and "The Train," from 1984, 1985 and 1986, respectively) had an unanticipated bunch of browsers for its volume on planes. After observing that the takeoff and landing functions of airplane flaps were so precisely demonstrated, Flight International, an aviation magazine, recommended the children's pop-up book for pilot trainees. Kid stuff, *eh*?

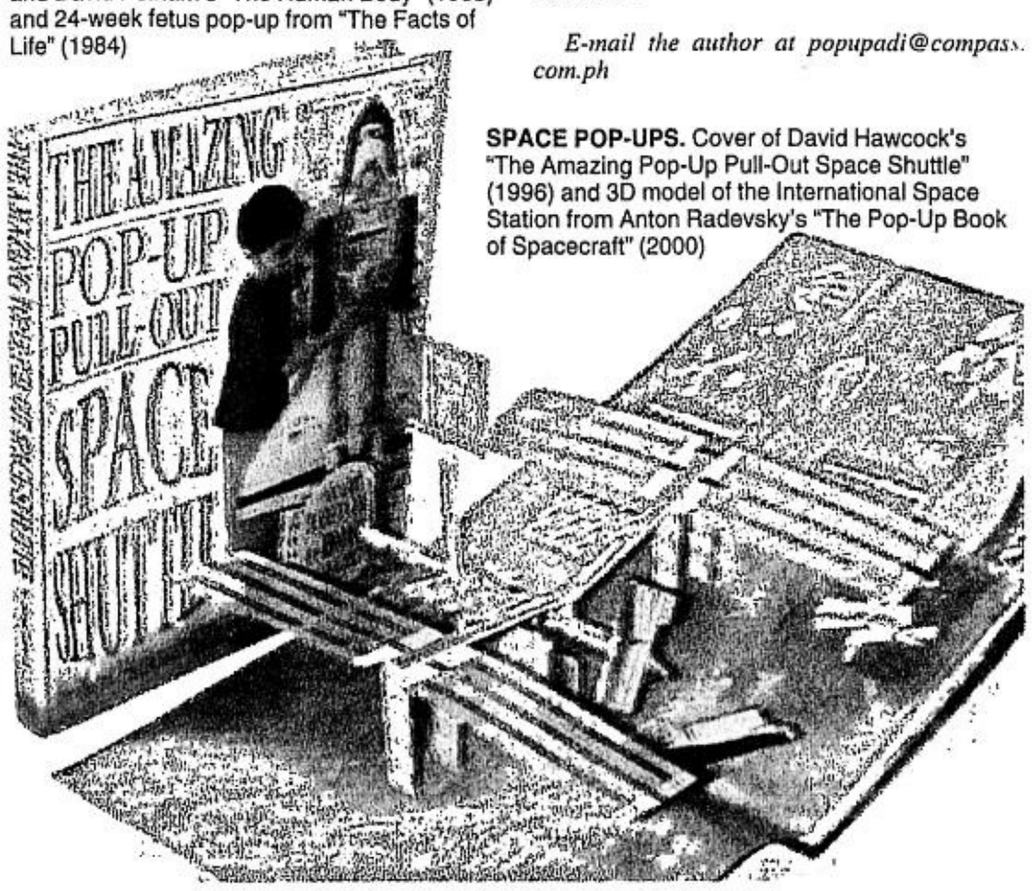
Content and structure-wise, books with three-dimensional paper parts have certainly changed through the centuries. Five hundred years ago, complex movable books were created for royal stargazers. Today, elaborate pop-up books with over-the-top "paper engineering" effects celebrate space conquerors. But the rush one experiences while discovering something for the first time still remains. Watch a child excitedly unfold David Hawcock's "The Amazing Pop-Up Pull-Out Space Shuttle" (1996), a 12x10" book, into a 4-ft model of the spacecraft.

Or an adult gingerly turn the pages of Anton Radevsky's "The Pop-Up Book of Spacecraft" (2000) which features three-dimensional models of the historic moon landing; the planned International Space Station (to be completed by the end of 2004) and the 1997 Mars Project including a pop-up miniature of the six-wheel rover Sojourner. You can almost hear their hearts skip a beat.

(Interactive CD-ROMs? Naaah. There is no substitute for the tactile delight of lifting a flap, pulling a tab or turning a paper wheel—not to mention the smell of paper, ink and glue. Simply irreplaceable.)

So next time you come across a pop-up book, treat it with respect and handle it with care. "Respect" because of its erudite roots. And "care" because that marvelous movable book you have in your hands could be in a museum centuries from now.

E-mail the author at popupadi@compass.com.ph



SPACE POP-UPS. Cover of David Hawcock's "The Amazing Pop-Up Pull-Out Space Shuttle" (1996) and 3D model of the International Space Station from Anton Radevsky's "The Pop-Up Book of Spacecraft" (2000)

SM Foundation executive director Dr. Lydia Echauz, SM Prime Holdings' Debbie Sy, donors lawyer Dominador Buhain of Rex Bookstore and Manny Santos of Grolier International along with GMA Foundation's Carmen Jimenez-Ong and Trumpets' Carlo Orosa lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony that launched the Donate-a-Book project on its fourth year.

Fourth Donate-a-Book campaign ends today

THE SM and GMA Foundations launched recently the fourth Donate-a-Book campaign at the SM Megamall.

DECS Undersecretary Isagani Cruz, himself a well-known literary writer and book lover, was the guest of honor. Cruz underscored the importance of books, which remain irreplaceable even in the Internet age.

The launch was attended by officials of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the project's proponents. Also at the event were representatives of publishing houses, school officials and children.

GMA broadcasters Arnold Clavio and Bernadette Sembrano hosted the program, which featured several well-known entertainers.

"Batibot," of the Philippine Children's Television Foundation, delighted the audience with their cheerful rendition of "Kaibigan Ko Ang Buong Mundo," showcasing the Philippines' distinct regional cultures. "Playshop's" Marvin Ong rendered a heartwarming version of "Can You Feel the Love Tonight."

Trumpet's Carlo Orosa delighted the children from the Eulogio Rodriguez Elementary School, Faith and Light Community, Nueve de Febrero Elementary School and the Isaac Lopez Elementary School with his storytelling.

The highlight of the event was LG Collins' videowall presentation that detailed Donate-a-Book's progress over the past three years, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by GMA Foundation's Carmen Jimenez-Ong and Rodrigo Cornejo, SM Foundation's Lydia Echauz and Debbie Sy.

Leading publishing houses then handed over their donations—lawyer Dominador Buhain for Rex Bookstore, Manny Santos for Grolier International, and representatives of Anvil Publishing House, St. Mary's Publishing Corporation, Marren Publishing and Filway Marketing.

Other first-day donors included Sol Theresa Logo and Dindo de Leon of the De La Salle University Press, Kathleen and Kenard Ang of the Philippine Lioc Kui Foundation Youth Council of Manila, and Mitchell Doren of Ugnayan sa Sining at Dokyumentasyon Editorial and Visual Arts Association.

The Corona Supplies Company and Goodwill Bookstore also contributed school supplies.

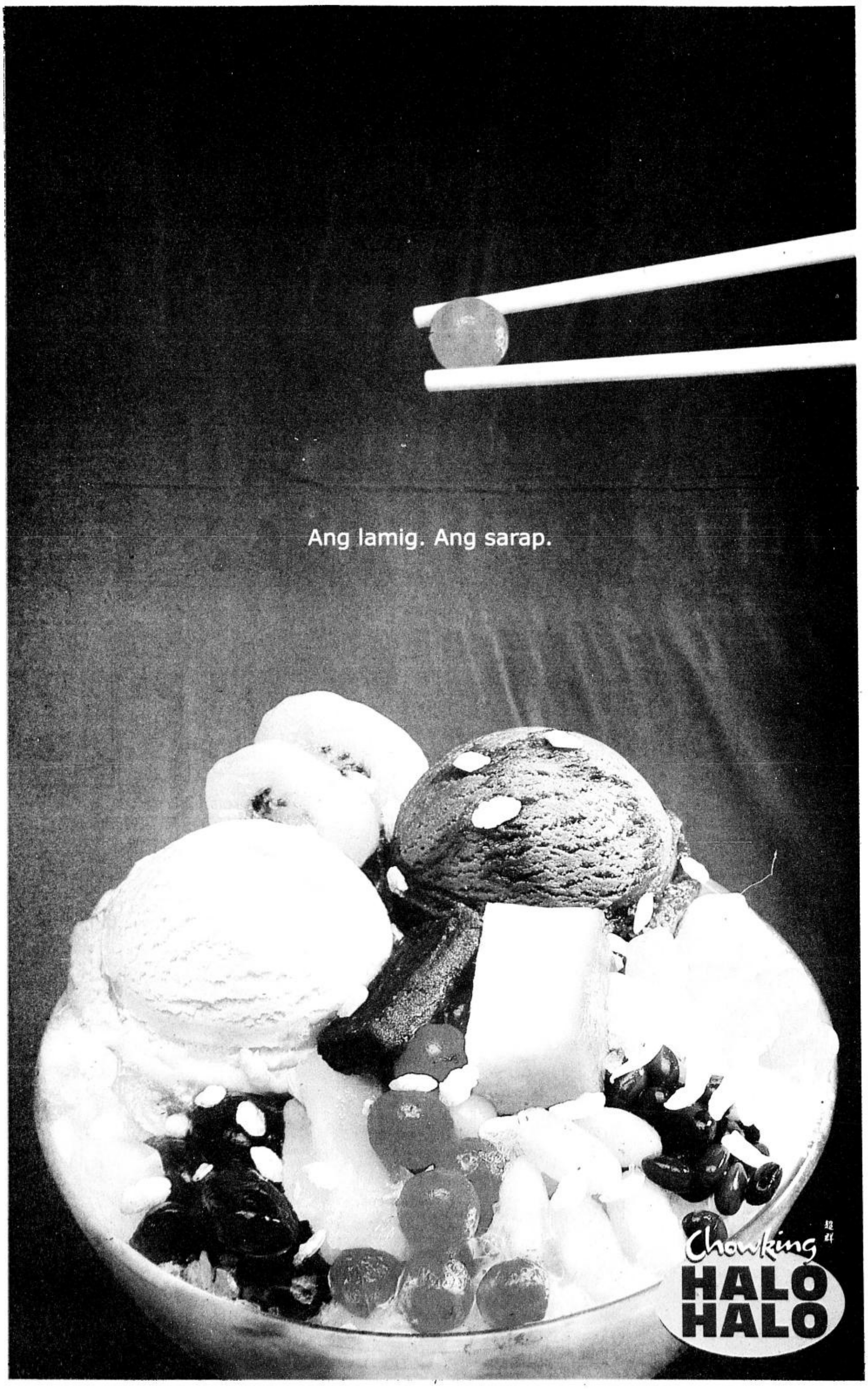
Since it started in 1998, Donate-a-Book has collected over one million books, which have been distributed to over 2,600 public elementary and high school libraries and day-care centers. SM and GMA hope to reach out to more recipients this year.

You have until today to donate books in booths located at all SM Supermalls. Each donation entitles you to a cash coupon from the SM Stationery Department.

This year's Donate-a-Book beneficiaries include public elementary and high school libraries, day-care centers and reading camps.

GMA 7's BEST. Arnold Clavio, Rhea Santos and Bernadette Sembrano

DECS Undersecretary and noted literary writer Isagani Cruz with SM Foundation executive director Dr. Lydia Echauz and SM SAVP-marketing's Millie Dizon



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cloris Leachman, Willie Nelson, Jill Clayburgh, Kirsten Dunst, Isiah Thomas

Happy Birthday: You will find yourself delving into unfamiliar territory this year. Let your strong beliefs and attitudes lead the way and don't hesitate to persuade those who may be willing to support your vision. You will have staying power, and the satisfaction you receive when you finish will be well worth the hard work you put in. Your numbers: 15, 27, 32, 35, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Expand your horizons. Take trips that will provide you with adventure and cultural knowledge. Social gatherings will open doors to love connections. It's time for you to make positive changes in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your family will be angry if you make changes that they can't relate to. Be careful not to offend individuals who are established in your field. Get the OK before you go ahead and do things.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do a bit of traveling today. You can meet new mates or friends while en route. You may want to become involved in activities that require stamina and endurance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't take things the wrong way. Extravagance will be a key issue. Refrain from trying to buy friendship. You can't alter the way other people feel. It's time to make some changes to yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll drive your lover crazy today. Don't be too pushy or demanding, or you may find yourself all alone. It is best to do something energetic with friends instead.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take time to visit an old friend. Do not let money slip through your fingers. Anger involving a co-worker will make you look bad and stand in the way of advancement.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do not spend money on friends or luxury items. You will not prosper if you lend money or possession to others. Insincere gestures of friendliness are apparent. This is not the time to trust others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your change in attitude is probably upsetting those who love you. Verbal abuse may lead to walkouts or making rash statements that you'll regret later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Grab any opportunity to travel. The ideas and concepts that you discover will lead to prosperous ventures. Different perspectives can be gained by observing foreign cultures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will probably feel compelled to sort through the personal papers of elders in your family. Set things in order for them and take care of any legal matters that have been left dangling.

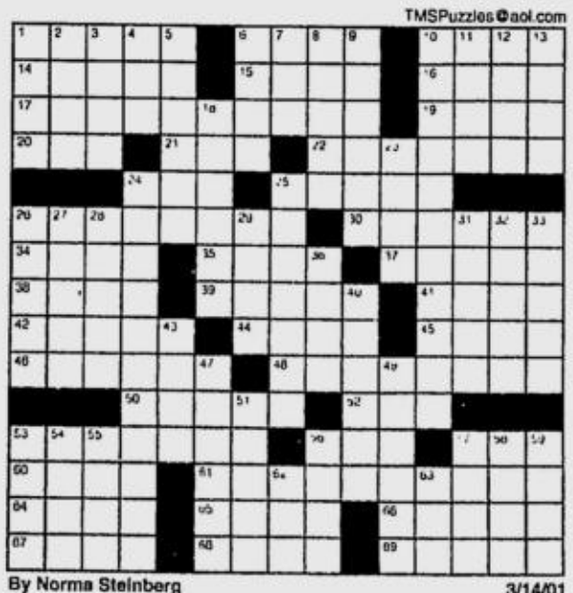
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Problems with partnerships will be confusing. Try to deal with them reasonably. Think things through before you make a decision. You need time and space for yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make extra cash if you put in overtime. Don't let anyone you work with take advantage of your empathetic nature. You can give your peers suggestions, but don't do the work for them.

Birthday Baby: You are bold, dramatic and stubborn when it comes to getting your way. You have charisma, charm and a strong will that encourages you to be relentless in your pursuits.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
3/14/01

ACROSS
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10 Tiger's sport
14 Parasitic pest
15 Shortly
16 Writer/director Kazan
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19 Driving gadgets
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21 Sundial X
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9 Song of loyalty
10 Hallmark order?
11 Toast spread
12 In __ of
13 Forgo food
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51 Carpentry tool
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57 Costa __
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SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

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TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

Mass and coronation highlight Our Lady of Manaoag's 75th year celebration

ALL roads will lead to Manaoag, Pangasinan on May 2, when devotees gather together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Our Lady of Manaoag's canonical coronation.

The celebration takes place every 25 years as a thanksgiving for Our

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Lady of Manaoag's intercession for all our needs. The fiesta Mass and coronation will be held at 8 a.m. with Our Lady of Manaoag Choir from Cebu singing during the Mass.

At first, I refused the call of Our Lady to visit her shrine. It was in the early '80s when Manang Helen Ismael invited me. I was then going to Baguio for the healing of my achalasia. I said no because I thought I would not be able to make the bus ride for I was so weak.

After my operation in April 1985, my brother Jose told me that our maternal grandmother Lola Cela prayed to Our Lady of Manaoag for my recovery. That explained why I had a successful operation and such illness never bothered me again.

First column

Two years later, I wrote about the miracle of Our Lady of Manaoag in my life in my first column that came out on Dec. 18, 1987 in this paper. My editor then, Llita Logarta, gave the column title "Purely Personal" because it was a personal experience. Since then, I became a devotee writing about her many miracles and distributing her novenas from Aparri to Jolo. I would receive at least 100 letters a week asking for free novenas. And I would then faithfully answer each one.

This went on until 1991, the year when Edna Toral got sick and prayed to Our Lady of Manaoag. Edna got well and, as she promised, she has been propagating the devotion to Our Lady in Cebu and Leyte.

With donated images from Al Arriesgado, 10 churches have been recipients of the images. The 11th church dedicated to San Juan de Nepomuceno in Moal-boal will receive the image of Our Lady on May 6. Moal-boal is 109 kilometers south of Cebu. Its parish priest is Fr. Rey Talaugon.

Commemorative stamps

The Diamond Jubilee commemorative stamps and souvenir frame were presented last April 22, while the novena is ongoing until May 1. For inquiries on how to obtain the stamps, call the Manaoag shrine at (075) 529-0508 or Jovita Sy at 687-2549 or e-mail shrineamazcom. com.

Other Marian feasts

THE MONTH of May celebrates the feasts of the Virgin Mary under her various titles: Divina Pastora, patroness of Gapan, Nueva Ecija (May 1); Our Lady of Biglang Awa in Boac, Marinduque (May 10); Nuestra Señora de Salambao in Obando, Bulacan (May 19); Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados or Inang Mapag-ampon in Sta. Ana Church (May 12); Mary Help of Christians (May 24) and Our Lady of Visitation of Carcar in Cebu (May 31).

St. Joseph fiesta

ALTHOUGH May 1 is dedicated to St. Joseph the Worker, the St. Joseph Parish in Las Piñas celebrates the fiesta on the first Sunday of May which is May 6 this year. After the street band competition in the afternoon, the grand Santacruzan will take place featuring the beautiful maidens of Las Piñas and their handsome Piñaseros. Its parish priest is Msgr. Allen Aganon.

In Mandaue, Cebu, the fiesta of St. Joseph falls on May 8 which is also the feast of St. Michael the Archangel. In this church of St. Joseph is an old image of the saint which fell, according to old folks, from its high altar during the war. But it was not damaged. Miracles have been attributed to this image since then and so to the image of "Tata Husep" in Las Piñas who was believed to have disappeared from its altar during the early days.

Vision come true

WHEN Nanay Zenaida Umali was still a young girl, old folks at that time would tell stories of how a "gold church" would rise on the slope of their barrio in Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna.

Nanay Umali, as she is affectionately called, is in her mid-70s now. Two years ago, she donated a 1,000-sq m land to healing priest Fr. Diwane Cacao, who then built the "Sancti Dei" healing center and chapel through the help of friends like Aguing and Jerry Gonzalez,

OUR Lady of Manaoag

POPE John Paul II with Rev. Fr. Diwane "Wanny" B. Cacao (Rome, Nov. 7, 1997)

ST. Expeditus at the Sancti Dei Healing Center in Los Baños, Laguna

Belen and Tony Martel who put up the roof and ceiling.

Much to the surprise of those who lived in the area of Lopez Village, the altar came out to be gold-leafed. It was made by sculptor Peter Paraiso of Paete. I saw it for the first time last April 19, the feast of St. Expeditus. The day also marked the birthday celebration of Gloria de Leon, Babes Camarillo, Beth Claudio and Aguing Gonzalez.

The beautiful image of St. Expeditus was placed on the first step of the altar. I've asked for his intercession and he has answering them one by one.

Father Diwane with the Pope

A PICTURE of his meeting with Pope John Paul II in Rome graces the wall of the convent of Fr. Diwane Cacao in Los Baños. Father Cacao was in Rome several years ago to hold healing Masses for the Filipino community.

In one of my conversations with him, Father Cacao said he was so happy for having been able to meet the Pope face to face on Nov. 7, 1997. He felt very blessed at that time. It was an experience of a lifetime, he said.

Such experience inspired him more to continue his work in the healing ministry. God made it possible for him to build the chapel and center which has rooms where sick people can rest for the night before going back to the province. Donations just came, according to Father Cacao. He calls it a miracle.

Those who want to go there can go to Los Baños, Laguna by taking the Calamba exit from the South Superhighway. When in Los Baños, turn right at the sign of Ecotoda's terminal. You'll find the DOST building on the left of the road. Drive further until you see a building and chapel on the right.

Those who want to donate for the completion of the center can write to Fr. Diwane Cacao, Santi Dei Healing Center, Lopez Village, Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna or call him at (049) 231-6937.

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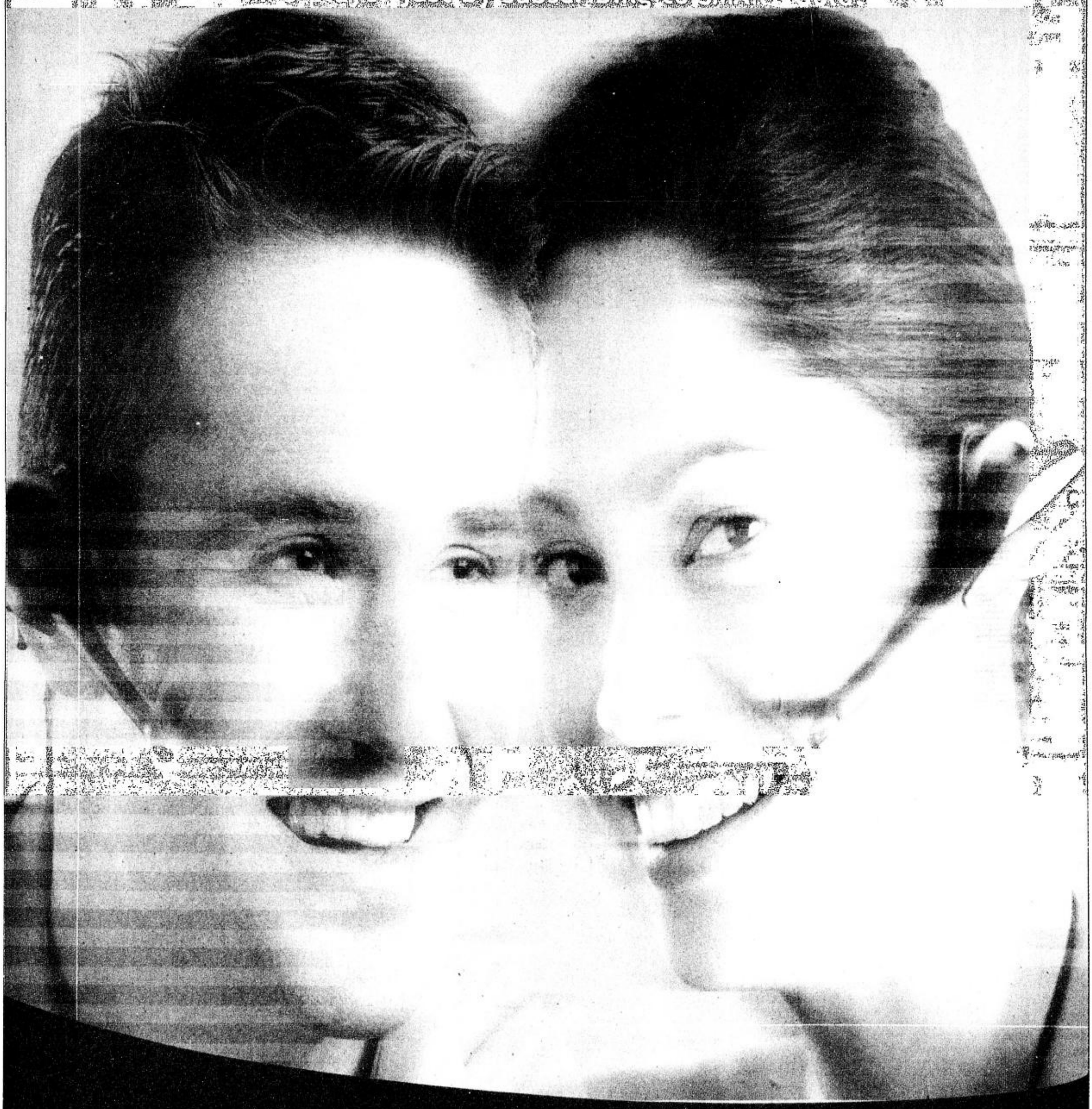

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See posters and flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0361. Series of 2001.

INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

Chinese researchers develop better human interface to PCs

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

BEIJING, China—In a high-tech lab somewhere in the bustling city of Beijing, Chinese researchers and scientists working for Intel Corp. are developing ways humans can better interact with computers.

The Intel China Research Center and Microprocessor Research Lab, which was established in 1998, will soon allow users to talk or even gesture to a computer or a device to run programs and applications. The Center is part of Intel's research and development and product design centers in China.

The Chinese researchers are developing several prototype applications for this purpose. One effort hopes to take visual and audio cues from users and turn them into something that a computer could understand. Another study aims to overcome the barriers for character-based languages.

The latter study is particularly useful for the Chinese-speaking population which uses thousands of characters in speech and writing. The team is developing a prototype that marries character recognition and voice technology as user-interface for handhelds or PCs, according to Peter Liou, director of the Intel China Research Center. These devices will be able to recognize strokes used by Chinese in writing, while also responding to voice commands in Mandarin or in Cantonese.

The Chinese researchers are also looking into homegrown applications for "computer vision." This particular study aims to give computers some kind of electronic eyes. Thus, computers fitted with this application could respond to visual cues such as facial expressions, gestures and even lip movement.

"Much of applications in computer vision are open source because this would enable us to do more research with others," Liou said.

The study is being extended further as the researchers attempt to combine computer vision with speech recognition.

A research on "audio-visual integration" has been perceived useful for noisy environments. Noise has remained the biggest headache to developing better devices that respond to voice commands.

In a press briefing, the Chinese researchers demonstrated that a lip tracking software could filter out any unwanted background noise. Although still crude, the lip tracking software combined with computer vision only responded when the user moved his lips.

This fancy user-interface is even useful in emerging voice portals where speech could be used to access information on the Internet.

"The objective of our research is to develop new technologies that will make computers more intelligent and easy to use," remarked Liou.

Liou, however, admitted that the point of all these research and development work helps Intel build better microprocessors.

"This will help shape future microprocessor design," he said.

The Chinese researchers expect to come out with results in three to four years.

FELIPE transfers from MP3Manila.com (above) to iAyala's MusicManila.com (below).

MP3Manila founder leaves; joins iAyala music portal

BY ERWIN G. OLIVA

INFLUENCED partly by the dotcom shakedown in the Philippines, Nono Felipe, co-founder of the first all-Filipino MP3 website, MP3Manila.com, has left the startup for a similar job in another music portal.

Felipe resigned as chief executive officer on March 31, 2001. Former chief operating officer Mark Escueta has been named as new CEO.

The 22-year-old Felipe joined MusicManila.com as Internet operations officer. MusicManila.com is a music portal managed by iAyala, an Internet venture firm of the Ayala Group of Companies. He is expecting to do almost the same job at MusicManila.com, however, minus the CEO title. In an e-mail interview, Felipe stressed that he did not leave because he was unhappy.

MP3MANILA/ p.H2

Prepaid cell phone service makes a killing in RP

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

ANECDOTAL evidence shows that mobile phone prepaid cards have brisker sales than junk food these days. In one school canteen of an all-boys Catholic school, plastic prepaid cards are selling like hotcakes. Most of the well-to-do students spend most of their money on these cards instead of the usual junk food.

Ricky Dagelet, founder and chief technology officer of Secure Payments Network Inc. (SPN), is not surprised.

He says that the Philippine market for prepaid services is growing by an average of 40 percent every year. This growth is primarily driven by the explosion of demand for cellular phones in a country that has yet to improve on its dismal teledensity of a little more than 3 percent.

Last year alone, Dagelet claims that the total local prepaid service market was worth P20 billion, and will hit P60 billion in 2003.

Which is why he has decided to set up a company that hopes to revolutionize the prepaid market.

The way this young entrepreneur and his partners see it, the prepaid market could be run better electronically. His company, in collaboration with Nokia and solutions provider Schlumberger, will introduce a technology that will do away with the use of plastic scratch cards for prepaid services in the country.

The Philippine mobile phone operators currently dispense credits to more than 5 million GSM subscribers through prepaid cards sold in retail stores.

The network of retailers in the Philippines is so wide that even mom and pop stores sell these ubiquitous cards. In fact, cutthroat competition among local retailers has even forced some to offer 10 to 20 percent discounts on these plastic cards.

Prepaid cards for mobile phone services works this way: Mobile phone operators first send a card information (serial numbers and PIN) to local manufacturers of scratch prepaid cards. The cards are packaged and then delivered back to them. Using a network of dealers, these cards are distributed to local retailers.

Currently, managing a scratch card-based system eats 5 to 7 percent of the prepaid card value, according to Dagelet. That cost goes to printing, distribution, delivery, warehousing, inventory and handling of the plastic scratch cards.

PREPAID/ p.H4

Oracle offers cost-effective CRM system

BY GERRY PLAZA

SMALL and medium-sized companies can now take advantage of global customer relationship management (CRM) systems without the need for complex implementation processes and costly investments in infrastructure, according to Oracle Systems Philippines.

Oracle announced on Thursday a worldwide initiative to deploy its full CRM suite to companies without having to increase hardware purchases and hire experts to have the system up and running.

"All a company needs to own is a robust Internet connection," said Jojo Añonuevo, Oracle Systems Philippines e-business solutions director. He said that

ORACLE/ p.H2

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Microsoft denies analyst talk of Windows XP delay

SEATTLE—Microsoft Corp. denied it had delayed the latest version of its Windows operating system, rebuffing comments from an analyst that sent shares in the software giant down about 3 percent.

Publicly, Microsoft has said only that Windows XP, will be released in the second half of the year, and a company spokesperson said that had not changed.

But Rob Enderle, an analyst with technology consultancy Giga Information Group, said an internal Microsoft target of launching Windows XP in August had been postponed to October.

After Enderle's comments were reported, Microsoft shares fell $2.01, or 2.9 percent, to $67.12 on the Nasdaq, which rose 2 percent on a rebound in many other tech stocks.

"I think that was it. There was a lot of noise about it during the day," said Jonathan Geurkink, an analyst with Wells Fargo research arm Ragen MacKenzie. Geurkink said he wasn't confident that the delay estimate was reliable. He has forecast Microsoft to launch Windows XP by the end of September.

A Windows XP delay would affect not only Microsoft but personal computer makers as well because the software is widely considered to be such a significant upgrade that it will help restart moribund PC sales.

Enderle said the delay appeared to stem from problems with making the software, the most significant update to the consumer platform in six years, compatible with existing programs and hardware.

"There has been a series of compatibility issues," Enderle said.

Microsoft declined to address Enderle's remarks in detail, sticking to its goal of a second-half launch.

Another key issue was a delay in an upcoming version of the Pentium 4 microprocessor from chip giant Intel Corp.

The new version will contain modifications to optimize performance of Windows XP, and Microsoft wanted to debut the software on the new enhanced chip, Enderle said.

Reuters

Finding cures for diseases by tapping 'idle' computers

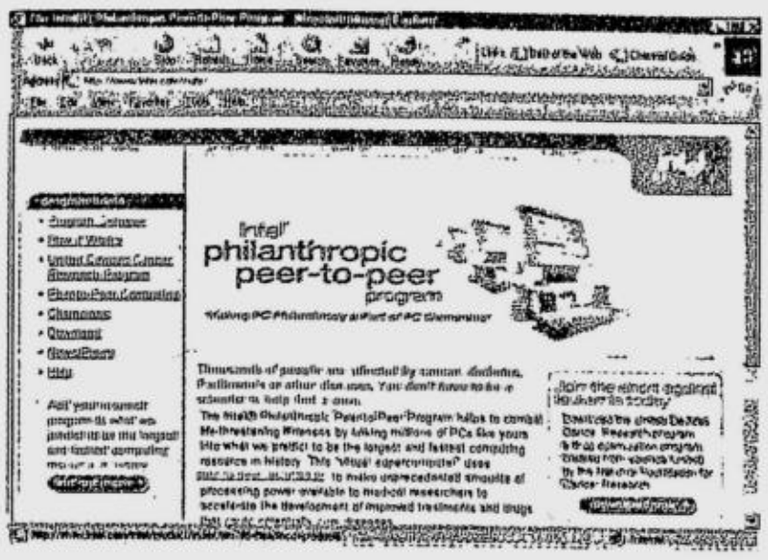
BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

INFORMATION technology and medical research leaders have collaborated to launch an innovative cancer research program that harnesses the power of millions of idle computers all over the world.

The National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) and the University of Oxford have partnered with microprocessor leader Intel Corp. and Internet distributed computing firm United Devices to launch the project. The idea is to use the power of all these interconnected PCs to do biological number crunching.

Initially, that computing power will be focused on finding a cure for leukemia, a fatal disease caused by uncontrolled proliferation of white blood cells in the body. The research involves evaluating hundreds of millions of molecules that could potentially cure leukemia. NFCR scientists believe that doing this would require 24 million hours.

United Devices has developed a downloadable computer program available at www.intel.com/cure that links computers into a "giant virtual number crunching machine," which would conduct the largest biological computation in history.



According to United Devices, the project could reduce to five years the estimated 12 years it would take to develop a new drug for leukemia.

"This particular drug optimization program is evaluating four proteins. One of these four proteins has been identified as critical to the growth of leukemia; shutting it down might mean finding a potential cure for leukemia. The other three proteins in the simulation are very important to the growth of leukemia, and they have implications for the growth of other cancers as well. Stopping one of these proteins will likely reduce the growth of leukemia and have benefits for other cancers too," according to the statement posted at the United Devices Cancer Research Program page.

Each linked desktop PC would help compute information on molecular research being done by the Department of Chemistry at the University of Oxford in England and the NFCR.

"Intel and the scientific community are using the PC and the power of peer-to-peer computing technology to dramatically change the way medical research is performed," said Intel president and CEO Craig Barrett in a statement posted at the Intel site.

Dr. Sujuan Ba, science director for the NFCR, added that "this collaborative initiative offers us the capability to save three to five years in the design of anti-cancer drugs, meaning promising medicine will get to the market quicker."

Intel launched this project early this month under the name Intel Philanthropic Peer-to-Peer program. It also plans to use the program to target other diseases, including Parkinson's and diabetes.

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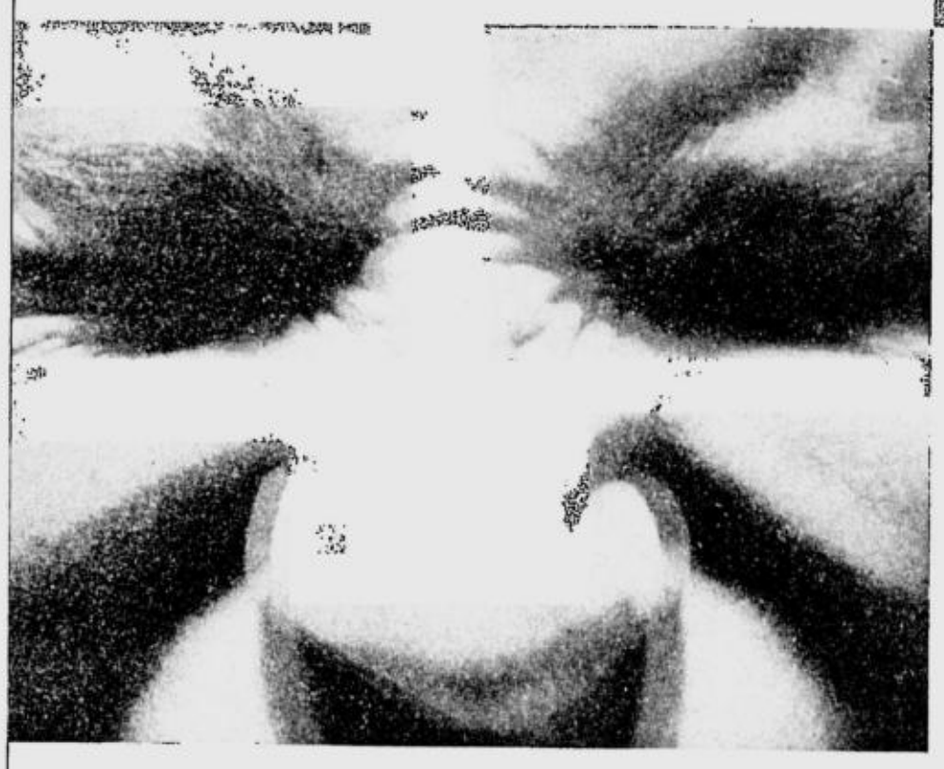

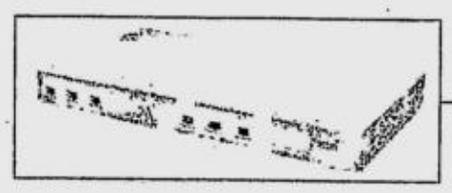

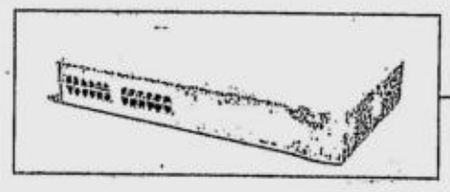

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Simple sets you free.

Oracle offers cost-effective CRM system

(From page H1)

apart from that, hardware services, consultancy and solutions implementation would be exacted on the vendor side. This means the user would be spared the "complexity" of deploying the software across the enterprise, he said.

Customers only need to connect to Oracle servers through the Internet to get the software and allow the company's consultants to install and deploy the program across the business network remotely. A simple Internet address, Oracle said, would be supplied to the customers for this purpose.

"Customers would not spend on skills training and hardware purchases," Añonuevo added. It would be Oracle's job, he said, to provide backend services and offer expertise in deployment, including installation and implementation.

Oracle has vowed to provide infrastructure, software and consulting services to customers in the CRM package, which it claims could be fully implemented across the enterprise in 90 days.

CRM packages, which allow companies to maintain healthy relationships with customers in its automation endeavor, have largely been used to reengineer business processes and enhance customer service programs. Its deployment, however, repeatedly requires the hiring of consultants to assist in the installation, configuration and deployment.

Consultants would be available on a 24x7 basis from anywhere in the world to install and configure the software online. The CRM package and hardware services are centralized from the company's US offices. The package is available globally, including the Philippines, and costs at a range of $150,000 to $395,000 depending on the number of seats to be purchased.

Añonuevo said the CRM package is ideal for companies earning P3 million to P150 million a year.

"These companies would have a considerable customer base warranting a CRM package," he said.

MP3Manila . . .

(From page H1)

"That is a totally wrong perception of things. You see, I'm a builder. I build things. I was co-founder of MP3Manila, and now it's running by itself and is now self-sustaining, so I can move on to other things," Felipe said.

He added that his leaving is part of a plan to move to bigger challenges.

"My decision to leave was not because things are falling out, but because I also felt that the money can be used for better things," he added.

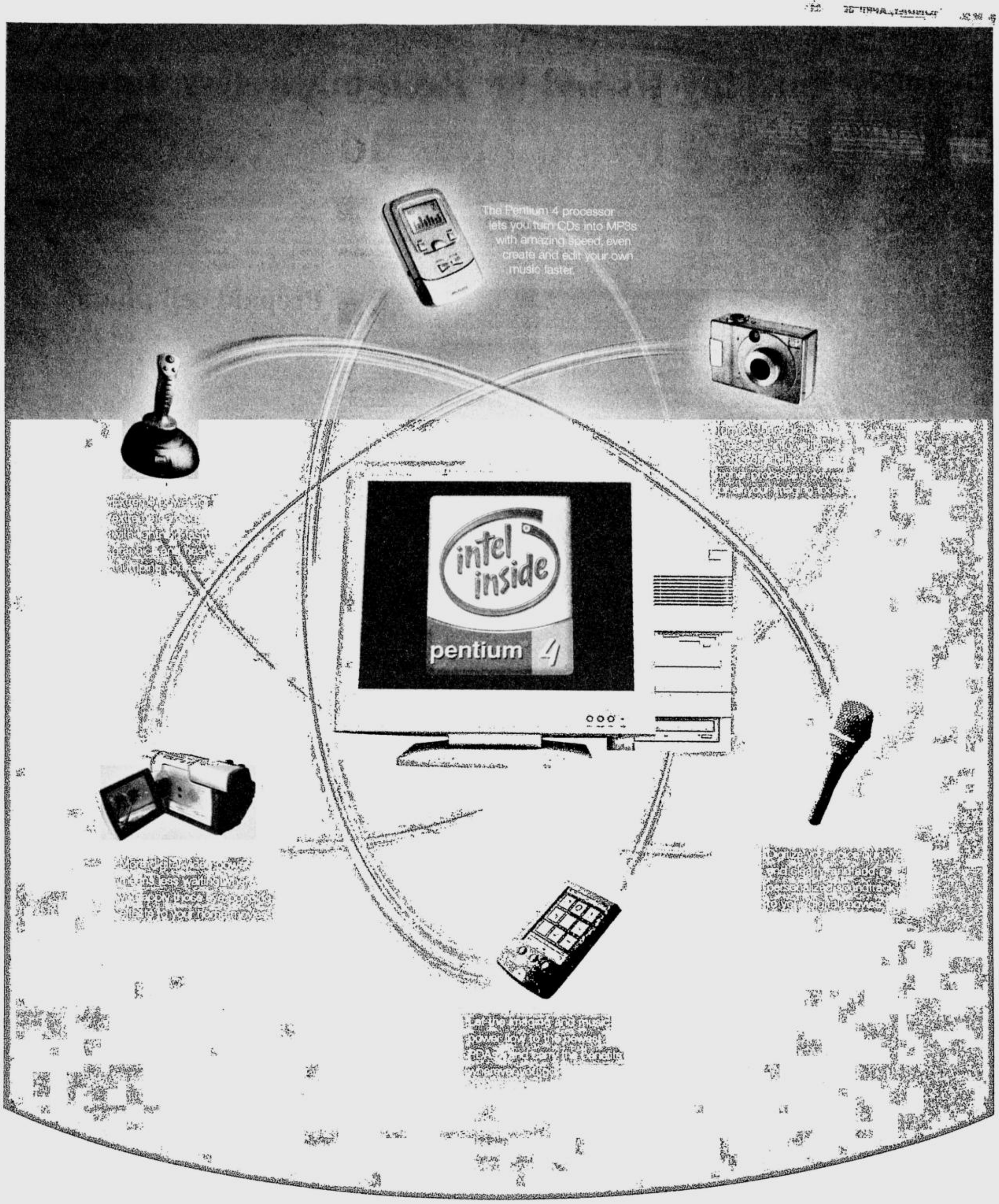
MP3Manila.com was among the lucky startups in the Philippines after getting investments from mining-firm-turned-Internet-firm Ajo.net.

MP3Manila will continue operations, according to Felipe.

"In fact, I am looking out for the company while Mark (Escueta) is away. I communicate with MP3Manila regarding its operations for the duration of Mark's trip," Felipe said.

MP3Manila was the first Philippine Internet music portal that featured unsigned musicians. It currently boasts of the largest collection of original Filipino music on the Internet.

MP3Manila was founded by a group of friends out of Ateneo de Manila University. They are Felipe, Joseph Coronel, Armand Abaya, Mark Escueta and Robby Chacon.



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Cisco digs deeper into IP telephony market

CISCO Systems Philippines is currently working on winning a contract for the installation of 100 IP telephones with a major bank within the year.

As part of its efforts in promoting IP telephony, Cisco Systems Philippines will also host the third leg of its three-city road tour, dubbed "Cisco Systems Technofair." Earlier held in the cities of Davao and Cebu, the event will feature the latest in IP phones, Wireless LANs (local area networks) and the Cisco Networking Academy Program. This event is open to the public, free of charge.

Meanwhile, Cisco Systems scored another triumph in the IP Telephony sector with the installation of an IP Contact Center (IPCC) system at the Switzerland-based BKW FMB Energie AG.

BKW is a leading provider of various forms of energy to business establishments, private households, communities and resellers.

BKW required the installation of IPCC in three locations at the Bern headquarters, Biel and Speiz—manned by a total of 35 technical support agents. Starting March this year, five other locations will be installed with IPCC systems operated by an additional 18 technical support agents.

The IPCC will allow BKW's agents to service customers using unified channels of communications, the Internet, voice and e-mail and deliver more cost-efficient and speedy responses. This means that e-mail inquiries and requests can be read over the phone in 10 languages.

Intel invests $4B for R&D in wireless, Internet

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

BEIJING, China—Chip manufacturer Intel Crop. said that it has allocated around $4 billion in research and development for 2001.

A quarter of these investments will go to studies involving next-generation computing, wireless technology and the Internet, among others, according to Patrick Gelsinger, vice president and chief technology officer of Intel Corp.'s network of technology and research labs.

R&D work not associated with any of its products are currently conducted in the worldwide network of so-called Intel Labs. These labs were established in areas where the company intends to develop products and solutions for a specific country like China.

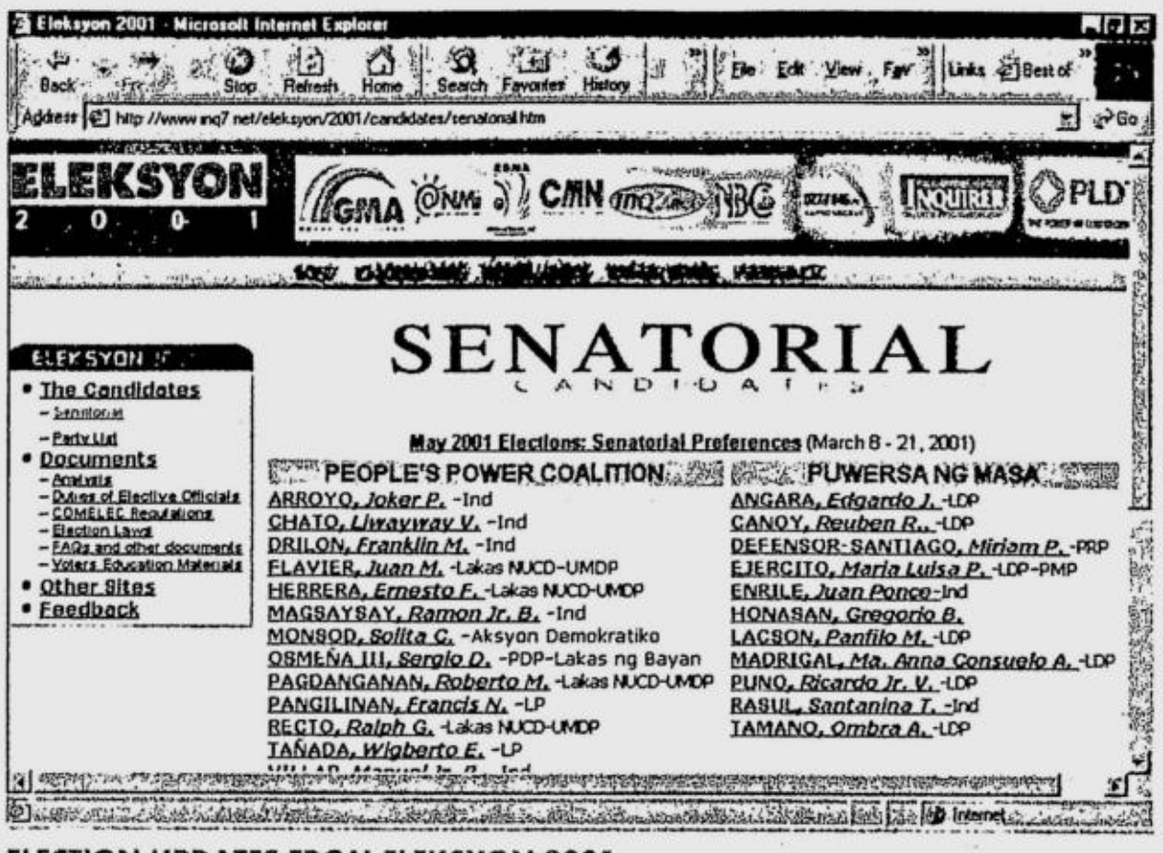
The Intel China Lab is currently engaged in various fields of research. These areas include developing better user-interfaces that combines voice and visual recognition technology, wireless applications targeted for Chinese customers, and an array of Internet and next-generation computing software and hardware designed specifically for Intel's microprocessors.

"We have a network of 45 labs worldwide that are decentralized. They are not like Bell Labs or Xerox's Parc. These labs partner with key academic institutions. At the same time, they play a role in the business operations of Intel in countries where they're situated," said Gelsinger.

Aside from figuring out ways to extend Moore's Law in the next decade, Intel Labs generate applications and solutions specific to countries like China. The labs serve as sort of a hatchery of home-grown solutions that ride on Intel's microprocessor technology.

Gelsinger, however, did not say if Intel has plans to set up similar facilities in Southeast Asia. He said, however, that business and economic conditions in the region are factors considered before such facilities are established.

At least 6,000 out of 25,000 Intel employees are now engaged in advanced and applied research, according to Gelsinger.



ELECTION UPDATES FROM ELEKSYON 2001

The latest updates to the upcoming May 14 elections from the Eleksyon 2001 news partners are now online at www.inq7.net/eleksyon2001. The Eleksyon 2001 consortium is composed of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, GMA Network, INQ7 Interactive, PLDT, Nation Broadcasting Corp., Radio Veritas, RGMA, GMA New Media Inc. and the Catholic Media Network. These organizations have agreed to cooperate among each other in the media coverage of the elections, and the official site of the partnership is www.inq7.net.

Prepaid cell phone . . .

(From page H1)

In Europe, Dagelet says that at least 50 percent of prepaid services use an electronic system.

So Dagelet hopes to introduce an electronic system for prepaid services in the Philippines. He is starting off with mobile prepaid phone cards.

His initial move involves rolling out 5,000 point-of-sale (POS) terminals—costing $600 each—nationwide within a year. These POS terminals, which look like credit card terminals, enable retailers of prepaid services to do business minus the ubiquitous plastic prepaid cards.

How? The customized POS terminals can store so-called personal identification numbers (PIN) and serial numbers in its own memory, and dispense them to customers through a paper-based voucher. All card information is hosted in a central virtual warehouse of prepaid card information.

All these data can only be securely accessed via the intelligent POS terminals run by proprietary software.

So customers only need to go to any retailer armed with the POS terminals.

The retailer dials up into the virtual warehouse to retrieve a phone card PIN and serial number, then after a few seconds, the terminal prints out the card information. The customer now enters the card information into his phone, and completes the process in 15 seconds.

For inventory purposes, sales information are uploaded to a secured website created by the company. Thus dealers will be able to monitor sales and later conduct quicker and more transparent inventory at the end of the day. In fact, the system allows retailers to adjust inventory whenever demand rises or falls.

"What we're providing is an alternative," says SPN president George Tiu. This system, he adds, takes away the risk of pilferage of scratch cards. Many plastic prepaid scratch cards get lost or stolen.

Late last year, Dagelet's firm bagged a deal with local mobile phone operator Globe Telecom Inc. Ayala-owned Globe presently uses SPN's system for its own mobile phone prepaid service. The company also closed a deal with Ayala-owned Bank of the Philippine Islands. The deal allows Globe customers to load value into their phones using the bank's electronic payment system.

In the future, Dagelet and Tiu believe that the system will find its way into other prepaid services such as ticket dispensing and Internet access.

Right now, the executives believe that Internet service providers, mobile and telephone companies will be their biggest client.

Unisys ES7000 delivers 65% savings in total cost ownership

UNISYS Philippines has announced that the Unisys e-@ction Enterprise Server ES7000 delivered up to 65 percent savings in total cost ownership.

To date, over 320 units of ES7000 have been sold, and over 50 percent of which have been sold to new customers. A study that used the Gartner Group TCO Analyst tool revealed that a 16-processor Unisys ES7000 delivered 65 percent savings in TCO.

Every day, 160,000 people are accessing infotainment services on their mobile phones. Ericsson says, let's make sure that as the Mobile Internet grows we're giving people what they want, where they want it. That's why, as part of its end-to-end Mobile Internet solutions, Ericsson

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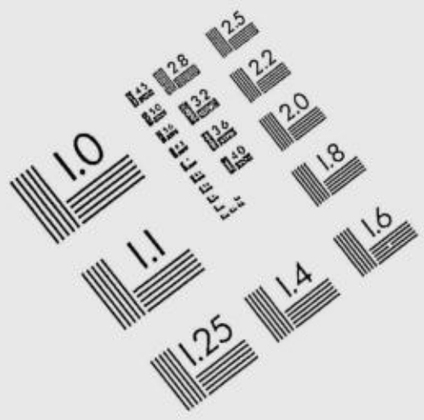

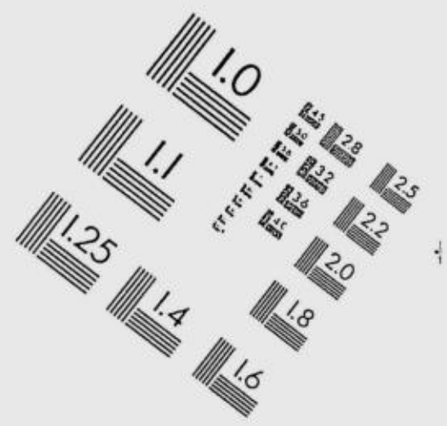

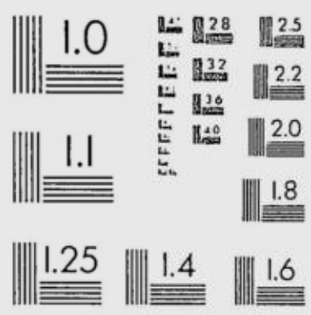

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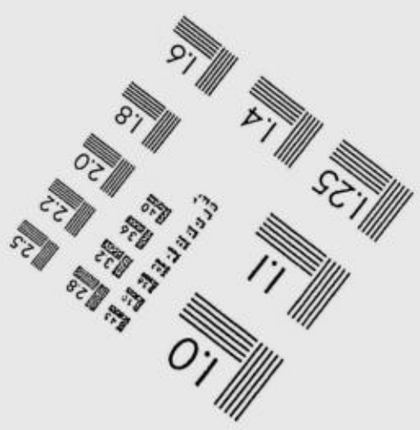

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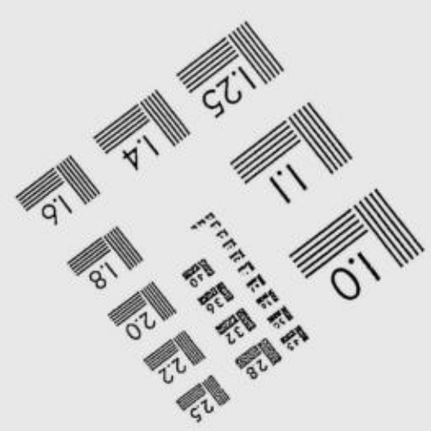

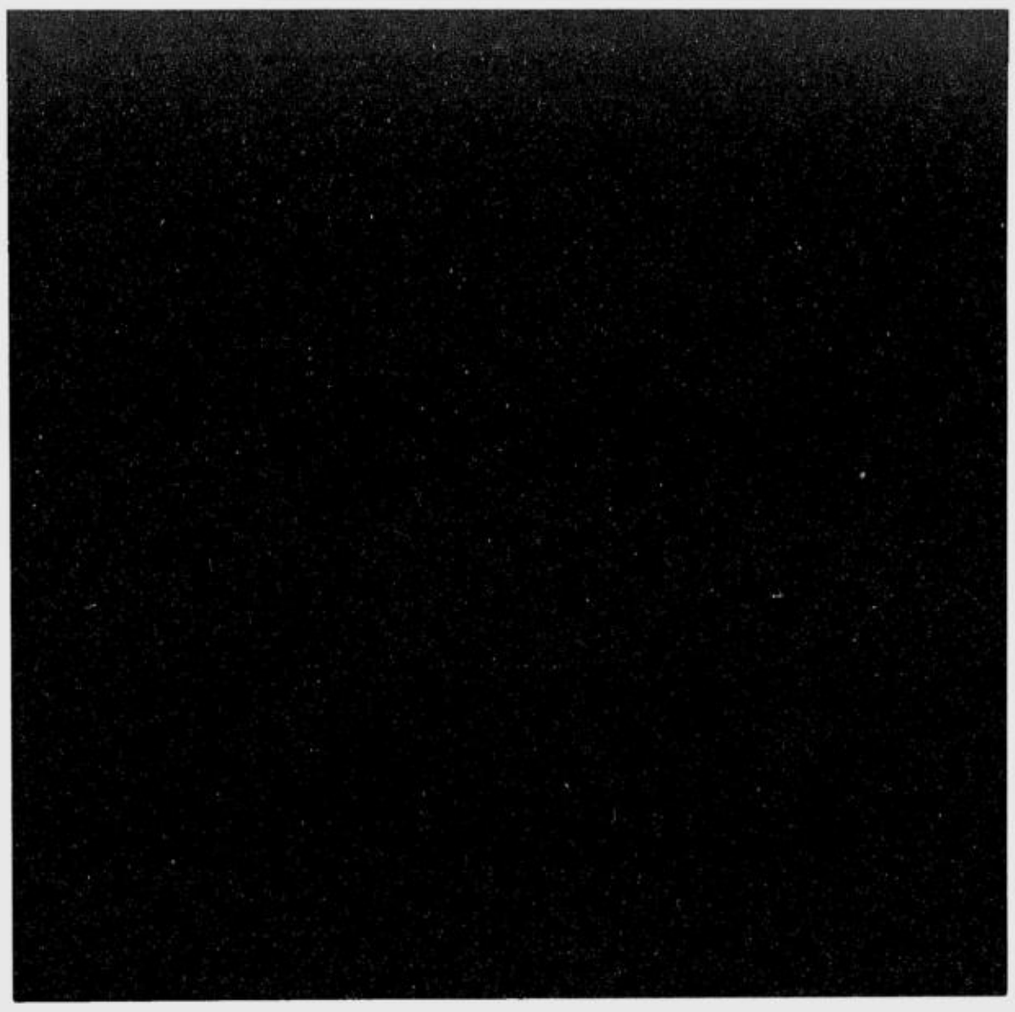

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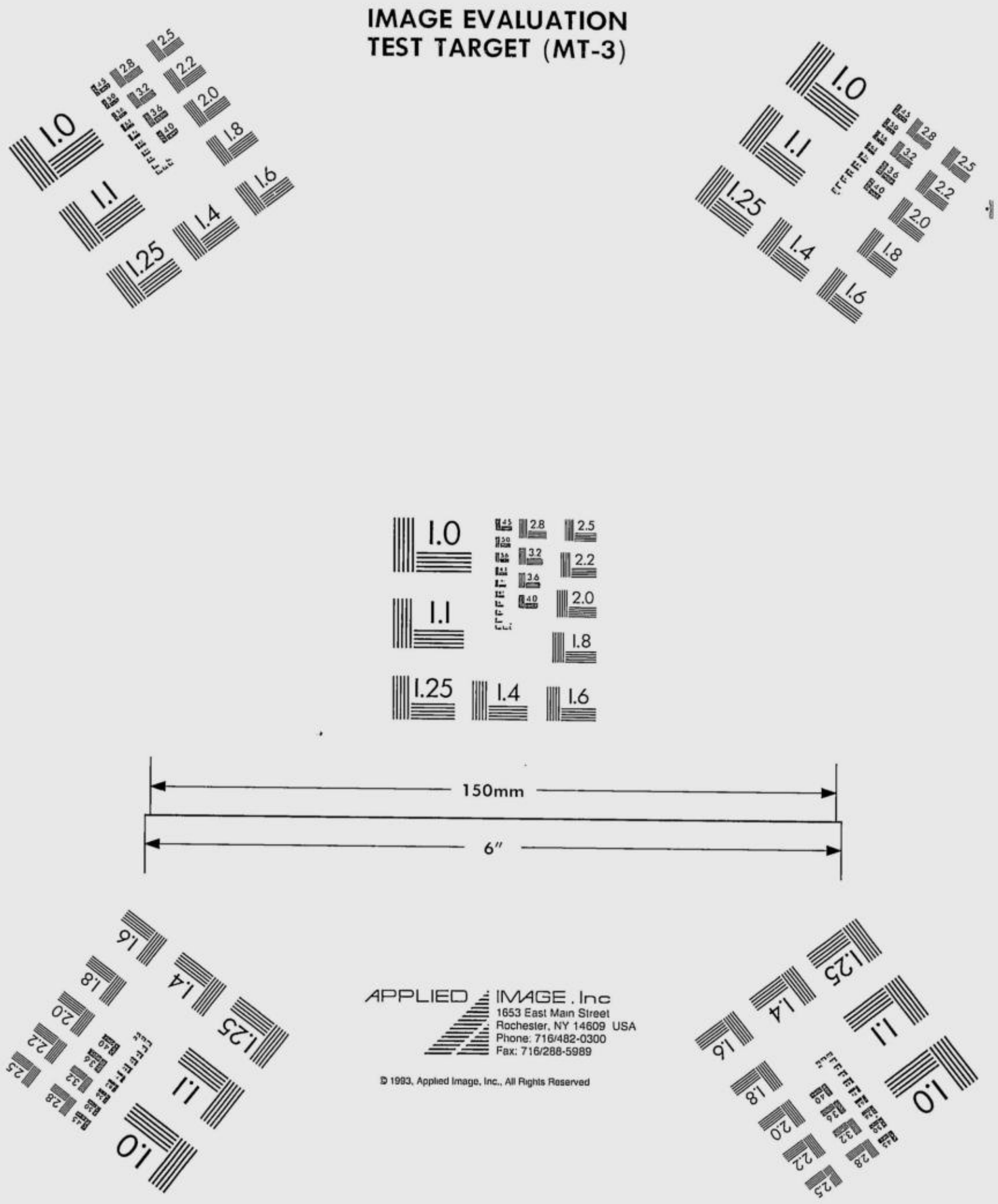
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